

LEICESTER, California (AP) — An 18-month-old boy has survived an 80-foot (25-metre) fall over a cliff with two broken bones. Grant Taylor, 18 months old, landed in the surf at high tide Sunday and was being tossed around when a couple strolling by noticed him and plucked him from the water. "It is incredible that he survived," said Sheriff's Deputy Robert Brunk. Grant was brought to a hospital in Leicester Monday. He and his mother, Joanne Taylor, 31, of Costa Mesa, were visiting his grandmother, a Leicestrian, about 40 kilometres north of downtown San Diego. Taylor said his 18-month-old son was crawling over a fence and some bushes and plunged off the cliff. Grant and his mother were walking on the beach when they saw the toddler about 100 metres away. "The water wasn't too deep and we saw a little bit of movement," said Mrs. Taylor. "We started running as fast as we could toward it and to our horror it was a baby."

U.K. TV icon Bet bids soap goodbye

LONDON (AP) — British actress Bet Gilmour, 52, has bid her career in television and film goodbye. Gilmour, who played the character of Elizabeth in the 1960s, said she was leaving the industry to spend more time with her family. She has been married to her husband, John, for 25 years. With her husband, she has three children and two grandchildren. Gilmour, who has been in the industry for over 30 years, said she was leaving the industry to spend more time with her family. She has been married to her husband, John, for 25 years. With her husband, she has three children and two grandchildren.

Queen joins Thatcher to celebrate birthday

LONDON (AP) — British Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 75th birthday on Friday. The Queen, who has reigned for over 40 years, was joined by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the celebrations. The Queen, who has reigned for over 40 years, was joined by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the celebrations. The Queen, who has reigned for over 40 years, was joined by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the celebrations.

Milan's La Scala hit by strike, again

MILAN (AP) — Musicians at Milan's La Scala opera house called a strike on Friday, halting the opening of the 20th anniversary production of Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor." The strike, which was called by the Italian Federation of Musicians, was the latest in a series of strikes that have plagued the opera house in recent years. The strike, which was called by the Italian Federation of Musicians, was the latest in a series of strikes that have plagued the opera house in recent years.

Carlos sidekick committed for trial

BERLIN (AP) — Johannes Weirich, considered the righthand man of "Carlos," has been formally committed for trial for murder over a bloody bomb attack against the French cultural centre in Berlin, a justice department spokesman said Friday. One person was killed and 23 were wounded in the attack of Aug. 25, 1983 on the Maison de France, which was believed to be part of a campaign by Carlos to secure the release of his German girlfriend Magdalena Kopp, imprisoned in France. Mr. Weirich, 48, who was handed over to Germany earlier this year by the authorities of Yemen where he had been in hiding, is said to have helped plan the attack and to have provided the explosive used. Brought back to Germany on June 4, less than a year after Sudan handed "Carlos," the Venezuelan-born Illich Ramirez Sanchez, over to the French authorities, he is also suspected in connection with a number of other attacks carried out in Europe by the Carlos group in the early 1980s. The charge-sheet accuses Mr. Weirich of having brought 24.38 kilograms of the explosive nitroperoxide from Romania to East Berlin in May 1982.

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King heads for U.N. celebrations, talks with world leaders

HM, in address to non-aligned, calls for focus on socio-economic development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein headed for the United States on Friday to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations, where he is also expected to meet with world leaders, including many from the Arab World.

The King, who will pay a brief private visit to the United Kingdom on his way to the U.N. at New York, will deliver a speech at the world body's celebrations outlining Jordan's views on the role the U.N. in resolving international disputes, and the U.N.'s activities in social services, health and education, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

"My speech will summarise my feelings as 50 years elapsed on the foundation of this organisation," said the King in remarks to the press published Friday.

"We have dealt with the United Nations for so long," added King Hussein, who took the helm of Jordan only seven years after the birth of the U.N.

On his way back from the U.N., the King will make a stopover in Spain to accept the prestigious Prince Asturias Concord Prize, which was awarded to him in appreciation of his efforts for peace and in service of human rights.

The King is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid was sworn in to serve as Regent during the King's absence from home.

At the U.N., the King is expected to hold talks with many of the more than 50 other world leaders attending the world body's anniversary celebrations.

The London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily reported from Riyadh, the Saudi capital, King Hussein and Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, the Saudi deputy prime minister, were expected to meet at the U.N.

It will be the first meeting of that level between Jordan and Saudi Arabia after the Gulf crisis, when Jordan's relations with the Gulf states were strained. Ties have improved since then, and the King recently expressed hope that a Jordanian-Saudi summit would be held soon.

The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, is expected to visit Jordan later this month and the newly appointed Saudi ambassador to Jordan is due in Amman around the same time.

Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will also be attending the U.N. celebrations, but there was no report of a planned meeting between the King and the emir.

However, according to a diplomatic source, "there is no reason that the emir and King Hussein should not meet."

The foreign ministers of Jordan and Kuwait have met and agreed to continue contacts in a bid to return bilateral relations to normal. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti minister, might visit Jordan soon, according to unconfirmed reports.

All member states of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council will send delegations to the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman.

Other Arab leaders attending the U.N. celebrations in New York include Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Algerian

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Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid is sworn in as Regent in the presence of His Majesty King Hussein shortly before the King headed for the U.N. to attend the world body's 50th anniversary celebrations (Petra photo)

Customs, fee and tax on most items to be under 50% ceiling

Changes will take effect as of Jan. 1, 1996

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has decided to reduce customs duties on most items except cars, tobacco products and alcohol, informed sources said Friday.

The reductions will be the second in one year on most major products. The government brought down customs duties on most items to 50 per cent late last year.

The new reduced rates of customs duties come in the wake of an increase in the baseline general sales tax to 10 per cent from seven per cent and an across-the-board cut in income tax that mostly benefit the low-income groups and businessmen.

They also come ahead of Jordan's entry to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). WTO membership is contingent of members reducing tariffs to a floor level of around 45 per cent, and removing most protective barriers in trade except when the concerned country is bound by any economic restructuring programme agreed with the

International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to the sources, the planned reductions in customs duties involve all products which are now subject to more than 50 per cent in customs duties, taxes and fees. They will now be subject to a ceiling of 50 per cent (30 per cent in duties and 20 per cent in fees and taxes) with the exception of:

- All types of alcoholic drinks;
- all types of tobacco products, cigarettes and cigars; and
- cars.

Further changes in the present customs duty, fee and tax structure involve:

- Goods hitherto subject to 45 per cent customs, fees and taxes will now carry a ceiling of 40 per cent (20 per cent customs duties and 20 per cent in fees and taxes).
- Goods hitherto subject to 35 per cent customs, fees and taxes (15 per cent customs and 20 per cent fees and taxes) will now carry:
- a 10 per cent customs duties on 80 per cent of the value of the imported product plus 20 per cent in fees and taxes.
- b. 20 per cent customs duties and 20 per cent in fees and taxes on the remaining 20 per cent of the value of the imported product.

The estimate change in government revenue as a result of the reductions and amendments was not immediately known.

Government officials have consistently rejected reports that proposals were being considered to bring down the customs duties on cars. The officials point out that the government offered a sizeable reduction (27 per cent to 45 per cent depending on the engine size of the vehicle) late last year.

Replying to complaints from businesses that large transport vehicles still cost high when compared to prices in the region, the officials point out that the newly adopted Investment Promotion Law provides for customs duty exemption for heavy vehicles if they are directly used in the transport of goods produced by industrial units involving fresh capital.

Hizbullah fighter dies after attack

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Hizbullah guerrilla died on Friday of his injuries after an attack that killed six Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon five days earlier, his group said. The attack, inflicting the heaviest Israeli death toll for two years, took place last Sunday in Israel's "security zone" which runs along the two countries' border. A senior Israeli army commander warned Hizbullah that his troops would retaliate for the deaths of nine Israeli soldiers. "I don't want to go into too much detail, but no one from the Hizbullah is safe from the long arm of the Israeli army," Major general Amiram Levine told the daily Maariv in an interview published Friday. The Israeli cabinet this week gave the army a "free hand" against Hizbullah to retaliate for the two deadly ambushes in South Lebanon. However, the ministers stopped short of ordering an extensive ground attack against the guerrillas.

Palestinians protest Israel's land grabs

HALHUL, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Almost 300 Palestinians demonstrated here Friday against Israel's seizure of land for construction of roads linking Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The demonstrators held a sit-in and prayed on a small parcel of expropriated land where vines are growing.

They said Israeli military authorities had seized 280 hectares of Palestinian land to build a military camp and an 11-kilometre road in this area in the south of the territory.

"The road will avoid Palestinian villages and link the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba near Hebron with that at Karnei Tzur when Israel gives the Palestinians self-rule in the territory, which it has occupied since 1967."

"The army is taking our best land for the benefit of 30 settlers living at Karnei Tzur," said Hatem Abu Dayeh, one of the protesters, who criticised the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for failing to react to the confiscations.

The Israeli army monitored the protest from a distance but did not intervene. The demonstration passed off without incident.

A headline Israeli legislator, who has vowed to shoot any Palestinian policeman trying to stop him, finally came face to face with that reality Friday — and balked.

"I didn't have my gun with me," said Rehavam Zeevi, a former army commander of the West Bank and a leader of the Moledet, or "homeland," party, which opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord.

Mr. Zeevi said the confrontation came when he led a group of supporters to an old synagogue in the

(Continued on page 7)

Libya expels more despite agreement

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya has forced more Palestinians to leave the country in violation of an agreement with Egypt that it would end the expulsions, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative to the Arab League said Friday.

Mohammad Sobehi, the PLO representative, said around 40 people in eight Palestinian families had arrived at a makeshift camp housing 1,000 refugees in a desert no man's land between Egypt and Libya's border in the past two days.

"Colonel Moammar Qadhafi has not yet implemented the October 6 accord with Egypt on halting the expulsions of Palestinians," he said.

"Since that date, dozens of Palestinians have continued to arrive in small groups in no man's land at the Egyptian-Libyan border."

Egyptian border police confirmed Friday that the expulsions were continuing. "More than 200 Palestinians have arrived at the deportees camp since Oct. 6," said one official.

"Since that date, 800 others have been able to cross Egypt to go to the Gaza Strip," he said, adding that they had Israeli documents enabling them to enter the autonomous Palestinian territory.

Mr. Sobehi urged Egypt to renew its efforts to persuade Qadhafi to honour the agreement.

Egyptian Foreign Minister

(Continued on page 7)

Baghdad urges Washington to accept Saddam legitimacy

Minister expects problems with U.N. inspections to be resolved in weeks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Friday urged the United States to acknowledge that President Saddam Hussein represents his people and deal with him after his victory in the country's first presidential referendum.

U.S. President Bill Clinton "should deal with the facts resulting from the referendum," held Sunday in which President Saddam obtained 99.96 per cent of the votes, the official daily newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said.

"The U.S. reputation would not suffer from a positive response to Iraq's invitation to a dialogue," it added, referring to Washington's reservations about dealing with some governments it accuses of being undemocratic.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Thawra, said: "The attitude of Western countries, which are trying to play down the referendum result, will lead them to lose more of their interests."

It was referring to the possible contracts that could be awarded by Iraq after the lifting of the U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In his appointment speech Tuesday, President Saddam called for a "new chapter" in foreign relations. The United States called the referendum a

"farce."

Meanwhile, Iraq expects to solve all its arms control problems with the United Nations "within weeks," Oil Minister Amir Mohamad Rasheed said on Thursday.

"We think we will settle all the pending issues relating to the fast programmes so that in the coming few weeks we could finalise this final episode of (U.N. Security Council Resolution 687)," he told a news conference.

Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq's arms programmes, would come back to Baghdad within two or three weeks for what Iraq hopes will be the last round of talks on details of these past programmes, he said.

"He (Ekeus) knows very well now that Iraq is fully credible and fully open and all the necessary information is either being supplied to his inspection teams or answered, so I don't think this problem will continue."

If Iraq fulfils its obligations, the Security Council has an obligation to lift the oil embargo... we have fulfilled. There is still this little problem of the past programmes, which we are now settling in the coming few weeks," he added.

"The minister, who has assumed responsibility for military industrialisation from defector Hussein Kamel, said the defector

had been responsible for preventing Iraq obtaining a clean bill of health from Mr. Ekeus.

"This influencing factor, which was an obstacle in cooperation with the special commission, has disappeared so since early August we have seen very frank," he said.

Asked if the United States and its allies might find pretexts to keep U.N. sanctions in place, Lieutenant-General Rasheed said: "They are very professional and always falsifying our position and generating new stories about Iraq not fulfilling its obligations and so on."

"But I think our continuous approach, to be very objective and constructive, and to stick to our obligations... is the right path, which we are now following."

After his last visit to Baghdad, Mr. Ekeus gave the U.N. Security Council a critical report and said Iraq had made more advances than previously thought on all types of banned weapons — nuclear, ballistic, chemical and biological.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq had concealed from his team a large biological weapons programme, its chemical missile warhead flight test and work on the development of a missile to deliver a nuclear warhead.

Bosnian ceasefire is holding amid revelations of atrocities

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A ceasefire aimed at paving the way for peace talks in the United States seemed to be holding in most of Bosnia except for the northwest, the United Nations said on Friday.

The Serb army reported on Friday morning that the ceasefire was being "chiefly respected" around Sanski Most, a town in the northwest where pitched battles continued long after other fronts calmed.

Bosnian Serbs and government military representatives met at Sarajevo airport on Thursday and agreed to issue fresh ceasefire orders. Officers from both sides were due to meet on the Banja Luka-Mrkonje Grad road and the Sanski Most-Prijedor road later in the day, the Col. Vernon said.

The rivals were persuaded by the United States to accept the truce, the 35th during Bosnia's 42-month old war, in order to calm tensions before peace negotiations start on October 31.

The president of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, the latter negotiating also on behalf of the Bosnia Serbs, will attend the talks at Wright-Patterson air force base near Dayton, Ohio.

Hopes for peace were raised after the latest round of whirlwind diplomacy by U.S. negotiator Richard Holbrooke, Russia's Igor Ivanov and the European Union's Carl Bildt.

Yugoslavia and Bosnia agreed to exchange liaison offices, a low-level form of diplomatic contact, while, Croatia promised not to go to war to recover eastern Slavonia from rebel Serbs.

The United States administration and NATO are meanwhile making plans to enforce a hoped-for peace with the largest troop deployment since the 1991 Gulf war.

President Bill Clinton insisted he could dispel opposition in Congress to sending U.S. troops to Bosnia and said they would have to stay about a year.

"I believe that in the end that the congress will support this operation," he told a White House news conference.

Hrawi outlines policy for his extended term

BEIRUT (AP) — President Elias Hrawi pledged Friday to devote an unprecedented three-year extension to his term of office to getting Israel out of a border enclave it has occupied in South Lebanon since 1985.

He also promised in a 30-minute televised speech to accelerate reconstruction from the devastation of the 1975-90 civil war.

Outlining his policies for the next three years, the day after parliament voted 110-10 to amend the constitution to extend his six-year term, the 68-year-old Maronite Catholic declared in a speech that contained no surprises:

"The liberation of South Lebanon from Israeli occupation is the foremost priority in our national struggle. We shall concede no territory or sovereignty is concerned."

Israel established the so-called "security zone" in mid-

1985 as it withdrew its army from Beirut and other parts of the country three years after its 1982 invasion.

However, the Israelis have controlled the border enclave to one extent or another since 1978.

Mr. Hrawi's Syrian-backed administration has declared its support for a guerrilla campaign aimed at driving the Israelis out of the 1,100-square-kilometre enclave.

The guerrillas are spearheaded by Hizbullah and they operate with tacit support of Syria, the undisputed power in Lebanon.

"Resistance will stop only when the occupation is ended."

Mr. Hrawi spoke as tension was high in the south, the last active warzone in the

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Bahrain warns against sabotage, violence

MANAMA. (AFP) — Bahrain's government issued a severe warning on Friday against any repetition of what it described as "acts of sabotage and violence" which shook the archipelago from December 1994 to April.

"No state would tolerate such acts or be lenient towards the perpetrators," Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa told local newspapers.

"Those who responded to directions from foreign parties, using methods of sabotage and violence, have broken the law. They are traitors who must face the due process of the law," he added, without naming the parties involved.

"The people of Bahrain would not allow such acts to take place," he said, paying tribute to the emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, for his "wisdom" in freeing some of those arrested during the unrest.

The authorities have freed nearly 250 people since August, after an agreement with the opposition providing for a phased release of the detainees held without trial in exchange for normalisation.

The riots started after the arrest of a Shiite Muslim cleric, Sheikh Ali Salman, who was deported to London in January. At least twelve people were killed in the unrest.

In September, Amnesty International said 4,000 people were arrested during the violence, nearly 150 of whom were sentenced to jail terms ranging from six months to life imprisonment. One person, convicted of murder, was sentenced to death, it added.

Rafsanjani hails black march

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's president said Friday that the strong Islamic undertones of the million-man march in Washington were undeniable proof that this nation's revolutionary message had been carried to all parts of the world.

"The march was an indication of the deep sociopolitical crises in the United States," Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers gathered at Tehran University for weekly prayers.

"An important point of the march, and one which must have been very bitter for the American (government) to swallow, was the Islamic manifestations at this congregation," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"They (the U.S. government) surely don't want to admit that this is related to the growing Islamic movement in the world, that it is a culture that has been carried from Iran to other countries," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

He suggested much of the religious displays at the march had been censored by the U.S. government, saying the world had gotten only a glimpse of the Islamic message of the event.

Last Monday's million-man march to promote black solidarity was attended by anywhere from 400,000 to 870,000 black American men.



PRISON MOVED: Palestinian women wave good-bye to detainees being transferred from the Jenin prison in the occupied West Bank to another jail in Israel ahead of the Israeli army deployment in the West Bank to allow for Palestinian self-rule under the Sept. 28 agreement signed in Washington between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (see story on page one) (AFP photo)

Sickness and despair among expelled Palestinians stuck at no-man's land

THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN BORDER (AFP) — Sickness and despair are taking their toll at a steadily growing tent camp sheltering about 1,000 Palestinians expelled from Libya and stranded in no-man's land.

Rain and wind storms have worsened conditions at the camp set up by Libya for the Palestinians it has deported, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported 67 cases of diarrhoea among children.

"There is stagnant water in the camp and the residents are having to see to their daily ablutions in the open air because there is no sanitation. The conditions are right for sickness and epidemics," said UNHCR spokesman Panos Mumentzis.

With tents left open to the raging winds, the residents

only have a few blankets with which to keep warm as the nights get progressively cooler.

"How can we go on living here. Winter is coming, the winds are blowing and the tents are not strong enough to resist the downpours," said Abdul Raham Shahin.

The stranded Palestinians blame the outbreak of diarrhoea on polluted water brought in containers by the Libyan authorities. On Thursday the UNHCR supplied them with 1,200 bottles of water.

Several fear that cholera could spread to the camp with the arrival daily of between 10 to 15 more people from Libya, where a few cases have already been reported.

"The majority have not been able to take a bath since they arrived at the beginning

of October," said Hisham, 50, who waits for nightfall when residents are asleep to wash in the dark with a jerry-can of water.

"I am scared I will be bitten by a scorpion but I still take the risk," he said, only giving his first name.

Fatma Mohammad Gaber, 32, is heavily pregnant with her fifth child.

"I don't know how I can give birth in these conditions," she said. Another woman embarrassed complained about the lack of sanitary towels.

Not knowing when they can leave and where they will go, only adds to the distress. And the Libyan authorities are blowing hot and cold.

On Tuesday Libyan liaison officer Salem Abu Shaala arrived with a list of 13 students allowed to return to Libya to finish their studies. He promised others would be allowed to follow, the Palestinians said.

But the promise was never kept, dashing their hopes.

And the U.N.'s refusal to lift an air embargo on Libya to allow it to organise 2,500 flights to repatriate 1.17 million African foreign workers sent shock waves through residents fearing thousands of new arrivals at the already cramped camp.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi began to expel the Palestinians at the beginning of September to show up the failure of the autonomy accords with Israel to create a Palestinian homeland.

About 5,000 have already been thrown out on top of the 1,000 still stranded at the border, denied entry by Egypt and refused to allow to return to Libya.

Egypt detains extradited militants

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has detained six members of a guerrilla group extradited from Yemen on charges of belonging to an illegal organisation and plotting against this state, security sources said on Friday.

They said the men, members of the violent Jihad group which assassinated former President Anwar Sadat, were also charged with trying to destroy national institutions and security.

The sources said Egyptian police arrested the six on their arrival from Yemen. Details of when they were extradited and how long they had lived in Yemen were not immediately available.

Egypt maintains that many militants opposed to President Hosni Mubarak's rule live in Sudan and Yemen and has asked the two countries to extradite them to Cairo for trial.

Jihad, which now calls itself the Vanguard of Conquest, shot dead Sadat at a military parade in 1981.

Egyptian newspapers named the men as Mohammad Moursi, Mohammad Badawi, Ahmad Abdul Rahim, Mohammad Abu Gabal, Ayman Helmy and Mohammad Al Sharqawi and said they were being questioned by the prosecutor-general for planning to assassinate key figures and blow up strategic targets in Egypt.

Two Jihad members were executed in August after they were convicted of murder and plotting to revive the organisation.

Security crackdowns on the militants have limited their activities but the country's largest Islamist group, the Gamaa Al Islamiyah, is still active in southern provinces.

More than 800 people have been killed and scores wounded in the clashes between police and militants since the Gamaa launched its campaign to establish a purist Islamic state in Egypt three years ago.

Plans for Israeli singer to visit Yemen draw fire

SANAA (R) — Yemeni opposition newspapers on Friday condemned plans to host an Israeli singer of Yemeni origin next month in Yemen as a step towards normalising relations with the Jewish state.

Al Thawni weekly, organ of the main opposition Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), said: "The government has no right to take such a step without explicit support from the whole of the Yemeni public."

Yemen has traditionally belonged to the hardline Arab camp which strongly opposed opening ties with the Jewish state. Both parts of the country, formerly split into north and south, hosted guerrillas from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and other more hardline groups.

But Israel's Maariv newspaper quoted Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani on Sunday as saying he would try to arrange for Ofra Haza and Shoshana Damari, both of Yemeni origin, to visit Yemen despite a lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Al Thawni called for a national conference of all parties to determine Yemeni

foreign policy. "Going too far in preparing the public opinion for normalisation with the (Israeli) enemy has become an open trend in Yemeni foreign policy," Al Thawni said.

Another opposition weekly, Al Wahdawi, said on Wednesday the government "seems to have made up its mind for the option of normalisation with the Zionist entity."

"Iryani's statement was meant to shed more light on the real official Yemeni attitude of normalisation with the occupation Zionist state," Al Wahdawi, the organ of the small Nasserite Popular Unionist Party, said.

The armed forces newspaper, September 26, said in its Thursday edition: "The world famous singer Ofra Haza is due to visit her country of origin, Yemen, in November," but made no mention of her Israeli nationality.

September 26 said Ms. Haza "has played a big role in promoting Yemeni songs in international song festivals" and would sing at concerts in a number of Yemeni cities.

Attorney general attacks Shin Bet's interrogation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's Shin Bet security service has misled cabinet ministers to win approval for a harsh interrogation method of Palestinian suspects, the attorney general said in an interview published Thursday.

The method, known as violent shaking or "tiltulum" in Hebrew, led to the death of a Palestinian detainee this year.

In the interview, Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair sharply criticised the Shin Bet, suggesting the agency was pushing too hard to get more leeway in interrogating suspects.

"It is not possible to give them other, illegal, means. There is no such thing," Mr. Ben-Yair told "Lishka," a newspaper for attorneys. "We will not open torture chambers to replace (the gathering of) intelligence."

The interview came as a ministerial committee decided Thursday to extend for three more months a special permit for the Shin Bet to use tough methods, including shaking, during interrogations of militants suspected of plotting attacks against Israel.

With the special permit extended, interrogators may shake suspects only after getting authorisation from the Shin Bet chief.

The Shin Bet has been using tougher methods over the past two years, ever since militants opposed to Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peacekeeping launched campaign of shootings and suicide bombings that have killed dozens of Israelis.

Earlier this year, an activist of the militant group Hamas, Abdul Samad Harizat, died in detention as a result of shaking.

Mr. Ben-Yair said an investigation into Harizat's death indicated that the Shin

Bet gave misleading demonstrations of the shaking method to ministers of Israel's previous government.

After Harizat's death, "we saw a video demonstration of the shaking and it was completely different from what was outlined in the procedures," Mr. Ben-Yair said. "We concluded that this could not be used as a routine interrogation method."

"I am not willing (to see) every Palestinian youth with a black beard who is detained for questioning end up brain-damaged," he said.

Interrogators should only use the shaking method if they believe they might extract information that could prevent "a large and very grave calamity," Mr. Ben-Yair said.

Tensions between the Shin Bet and Mr. Ben-Yair came to a head in August when a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem killed five, including the Hamas bomber.

The Shin Bet chief later revealed that the mastermind of the bombing was in the agency's custody two days before the blast. He complained at the time that government had tied the hands of interrogators with too many restrictions.

But Mr. Ben-Yair said in Thursday's interview that interrogators had all means at their disposal and blamed the failure to stop the attack on poor decision-making by the Shin Bet.

Right-wing lawmaker Rehavam Zeevi said Mr. Ben-Yair did not understand that the Shin Bet was in constant war against Palestinian militants.

"We forget that we are in a war and in a war you have to act as in a war and not copy methods that are nice in Scandinavia or other democratic countries," Mr. Zeevi told Israel Radio.

Sudan MP assails German ambassador

KHARTOUM (AFP) — German Ambassador to Sudan Peter Mende should be dealt with sternly for having accused the Khartoum government of human rights abuses, a member of Sudan's parliament was quoted Friday as saying.

Shakir Al Sarraj, who heads the parliament's foreign relations committee, said Mr. Mende had "gone beyond his duties" and urged that he be dealt with "in a manner dictated by the diplomatic norms," the independent Al Rai Al Akbar daily reported.

"We regard what the ambassador has said as a confirmation of his government's attitude towards the Sudan unless (it) demonstrated otherwise by punishing or recalling him for his hostile campaign," Mr. Sarraj said.

Mr. Mende was quoted last Sunday by the state news agency SUNA as saying at a scientific conference that Germany would no longer provide assistance to Sudan because of its human rights record, adding that students had been killed in Sudanese prisons.

Shiites support Saddam 100% despite violent crackdown

KARBALA (AFP) — The gun and cannon fire that Iraqi troops unleashed on the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf to crush the 1991 Shiite Muslim unrest have few echoes today.

Nobody wants to talk about the events.

"How is the situation here?" a reporter asked a man with a pleasant smile. "I don't want to speak. I don't want to speak," he said, still smiling.

"If you don't want to speak, maybe there is something wrong," the reporter said. "Oh, there are many things," the man replied before slipping away.

But there was no sign of any protest vote in Sunday's referendum to give President Saddam Hussein another seven years in power.

All the 270,867 voters in Karbala voted "yes" for President Saddam, while 335,568 of the 335,637 voted for him in Najaf, the 69 other ballots being declared void, officials said.

Only the rubble of buildings razed to the ground bears testimony to the violence of the unrest and government crackdown following Iraq's eviction from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

Several thousand people

died in Karbala and Najaf, the site of the mausoleum of the first Imam Ali, founder of Shiite Islam.

Karbala is a stark reminder of the unrest.

Markets which stretched between the mosques of Al Hussein and Al Abbas are now nothing but a vast square of rubble and dust.

Iraqi troops used massive force to dislodge rebels who had holed up in the mosques.

The government has given priority to restoring them: gilded domes and minarets, blue porcelain and white marble facades, and crystal ceilings loomed over burial sites.

"We had a lot of trouble rebuilding the mosque, 80 per cent of which was destroyed by bandits," Sheikh Abdul Khalik, an official at Al Hussein Mosque, said.

The marble should have come from Italy and we were unable to obtain wood of the quality we wanted," he said.

But he added Saddam Hussein had quickly ordered the central bank to deliver 100 kilograms of gold and 200 kilograms of silver for the repair of the buildings.

There are projects to build hotels and parking lots in the empty square between the

mosques, according to the official in charge, wearing a business suit beneath a long jubba or robe-like coat.

In the meantime, bulldozers finished clearing the rubble where hundreds of men, women in traditional Muslim dress, and children were trying to sell whatever they could to make a living.

In Najaf, reconstruction was quicker.

None of the past splendours of the souk, or market, outside the main entrance of the recently rebuilt Al Ali Mosque, could be seen.

The embargo has impoverished everybody in Iraq, especially the Shiites who account for 60 per cent of Iraqis and are the poorest.

It was in Najaf that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini lived for 14 years before he drove the Shah out of Iran. His old house still stands in a somber sidestreet filled with garbage and rubble, beside the street of the Prophet and near the mosque.

The official in charge was reluctant to show the building which looked more like a haunted house. "Iraq protected him for 14 years and as soon as he went home he launched a war against us,"

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Back to the Future
14:30 Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 Blue Heelers
15:45 Only in Hollywood
16:10 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Cocote
17:30 L'Histoire Du Cirque
18:00 Drama Series — Operation Open
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Fast Pas Rover
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 The First Flight
20:00 Major Dad
20:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:25 Film: "The Dying of the Light"
22:50 The Tin Flute

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:39 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
14:32 Asr
17:02 Maghreb
18:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlana, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624326
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A cold air mass will affect the Kingdom today, thus it will be relatively cold with skies partly

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

cloudy and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, fine weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.	Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 Najib pharmacy 847632	Jordan Television 723111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	Other Flights (Terminal 2)
Min/Max temp. Amman 10 / 22 Aqaba 18 / 29 Deserts 9 / 26 Jordan Valley 18 / 30	ARBD: Dr. Fayer Al Qadi 248743 Alkhalil pharmacy (—)	Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200	04:30 Vienna (OS) 06:00 Damascus (AZ) 06:10 Sharjah, Doha (GF) 06:10 Rome (AZ) 06:15 Dubai (EK) 06:20 Cairo (MS) 06:30 Beirut (ME) 06:40 Paris, Damascus (AF) 06:50 Larnaca (CY) 07:00 Amsterdam (KL) 07:30 London, Damascus (BA)
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 28 Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.	ZARQA: Dr. Randa Shakhia 983710 Khalil pharmacy 985417	HOSPITALS	DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 06:00 Beirut (RJ) 06:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 06:00 Aqaba (RJ) 06:05 Berlin (add) (RJ) 06:10 Vienna (RJ) 06:10 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ) 06:10 Geneva, Larnaca (RJ) 06:10 Paris (RJ) 06:15 Cairo (RJ) 06:15 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ) 06:20 London (RJ) 06:25 Larnaca (RJ) 06:30 Riyadh, Doha (RJ) 06:30 Jeddah (RJ) 06:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 06:40 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 06:45 London, Berlin (RJ) 06:50 Berlin, Vienna (add) (RJ) 06:50 Vienna (RJ)
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	EMERGENCIES	FOR THE TRAVELLER	ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 06:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ) 07:00 Damascus (RJ) 06:45 New Delhi (RJ) 06:15 Aqaba (RJ) 06:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 06:35 Beirut (RJ) 06:40 Colombo (RJ) 06:45 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 06:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 06:50 ZARQA: 06:50 The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
NIGHT DUTY	AMMAN: Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 894788 Dr. Khalil Abu Al Jaroub 770797 Dr. Awni Al Hammad 832350 Dr. Khalil Al Tawil 894788 Firas pharmacy 661912 Fardous pharmacy 776336 Al Asana pharmacy 657035 Nairouth pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945	Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 617101 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 83402 Traffic Police 986390 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints 787111 Amman Municipality Complaints 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Orencia Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101	MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple 700 / 500 Banana 680 Banana (Mukammal) 620 Cabbage 210 / 150 Carrot 450/200 Cauliflower 350/200 Cucumbers (large) 250 / 150 Cucumbers (small) 200 / 100 Eggplant 250 / 150 Garlic 750/400 Grapes 650/450 Grape Fruit 220/140 Lemon 270/170 Marrow (large) 170 / 100 Marrow (small) 260 / 180 Olives (green) 380/280 Onion (dry) 250 / 150 Pepper (hot) 300 / 100 Pepper (sweet) 220/100 Pomegranate 300/200 Potato 330 / 220 Spinach 250/180 String Beans 630 / 400 Tangerine 300/200 Tomato 120/70

Sri Lanka mob backlash averted after rebel attack

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka extended a curfew in Colombo after Tamil Tiger guerrillas blew up two oil depots Friday to sabotage fuel supplies and stall an army push in the rebel-held north, military sources said.

At least 20 people died when the rebels, including black Tiger suicide bombers, blew up two of Sri Lanka's three oil depots and fired on security forces, they said.

The sources said looters were reported to be ransacking homes abandoned near the blaze ignited by the daring attack.

An official said troops fired into the air to prevent Sinhalese mobs from attacking Tamil residents on two different occasions near the oil installations, blown up by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels early Friday.

The government extended the curfew in the capital until 4 a.m. Saturday (2230 GMT Friday) after it passed its midday (0630 GMT) deadline Friday, amid reports that looters were at work in homes abandoned near the blaze, they said.

About 25 people, including the Colombo correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation, were wounded in crossfire between the Tamil Tigers and security forces, witnesses said.

Military headquarters said eight soldiers, 10 air force personnel and two special task force police commandos were killed in the attack.

At 3.45 p.m. (1015 GMT), the fires were still blazing but were contained, the fire brigade said. Two huge plumes of black smoke trailed over the city.

Troops were also combing an area of jungle near the oil installations where the rebel raiding party was believed to be hiding after a police patrol came under fire, they said.

The government warned foreign airlines Friday that aviation fuel may be in short supply, officials said.

"I have been asked by the Ministry of Power and Energy to inform foreign airlines not to depend on fuel supplies at Colombo," Director General of Civil Aviation Upali Malalgoda

told Reuters. "The ministry has told me that we are short of fuel."

Fire Chief J. Kanangara said five or six tanks at the Kolomawa Reserve, holding diesel, kerosene and other finished products, were ablaze, but the fire was being contained.

Both depots are about six kilometres from the city centre. Nearby residents fled for their lives.

Military sources told Reuters the aviation fuel shortage could affect air support for a major army push against the rebels in their Jaffna peninsula stronghold which began Tuesday.

The rebels, fighting for a homeland in the north and east, are currently under siege in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula, attacked by an estimated 10,000 soldiers in an operation launched Tuesday.

Analysts say the operation looks like the opening phase of a final push to defeat the LTTE, which has long controlled the Jaffna peninsula and the city of the same name.

The government says

more than 50,000 people have been killed in the ethnic war which began in 1983. It resumed in April when the LTTE broke a three-month ceasefire.

Since then, the government has published a devolution plan that would give Tamils considerable autonomy over the areas they dominate.

The LTTE has ignored it and officials and analysts say the military push is designed to weaken the rebels to the point they have no choice but to return to the negotiating table.

Military sources said more than 220 rebels had been killed and 450 wounded in heavy fighting since the army launched Operation Riviresa (Sunshine) at dawn Tuesday.

The military says 62 soldiers were killed and more than 250 wounded in the operation.

Military analysts have long feared a rebel attack in the capital to divert the armed forces' attention from the north.



A major fire rages at two oil storage facilities here as security forces cordon off the area around the two storage farms that were blown up by suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Simpson denies plans to move; coy on marriage

PANAMA CITY, Florida (R) — A jovial O. J. Simpson denied rumours he was buying a house in Florida and suggested he had no immediate plans to marry model Paula Barbieri. "I'm here with my girlfriend playing some golf and that's all I've done," the former football star told reporters before playing the game for a second day in a row. Asked about possible wedding bells in his future, Simpson said: "Only time will tell."

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Mary Tyler Moore tried to help brother die

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Mary Tyler Moore says in her new autobiography that she tried to help her cancer-stricken brother commit suicide by feeding him ice-cream laced with an overdose of drugs. But she said in the just-published book *After All* that the effort failed and her brother, John Moore, 47, lived three more months before dying peacefully in his sleep. Moore said her brother, terminally ill with kidney cancer, had slashed hundreds of painkillers in his home. She said she mashed many of the painkillers in ice-cream and spoon-fed it to him because their taste was so foul.

Marco Polo never went to China, new book says

LONDON (R) — Marco Polo, the Venetian traveller whose 13th century visits to China were Europe's main source of information on the Far East for hundreds of years, may have made his travel stories up, a new book says. Dr. Frances Wood, head of the British Library's Chinese Department, says in her book *Did Marco Polo Go To China?* that Polo never went near China and that his famous accounts of journeys in the Far East were false. Friday's Times newspaper said. Despite claiming to have spent 17 years in China, Polo failed to record sights and experiences that would have struck a visitor of the time, Dr. Wood said.

U.S. jury makes Eastwood's day

LOS ANGELES (R) — A U.S. jury made actor Clint Eastwood's day, awarding him \$150,000 in a case against the tabloid *National Enquirer*. The jury found the sensationalist newspaper printed an "exclusive interview" with the gun-slinging movie star that never took place. Eastwood claimed the so-called interview, printed in a Dec. 21, 1993, edition and emblazoned across the front page with the headline, "Dirty Harry lifts the lid on his private life," was a fabrication.

Bangladesh strike ends with hints of more chaos

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh began returning to normal Friday after the country's longest general strike, but the opposition's leader hinted further efforts to topple Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia could be more fierce.

The opposition-led strike, which began Monday, ended at 6 a.m. (0000 GMT) Friday, with traffic allowed to move again on the nation's roads.

Protesters who had camped outside their homes through the four-day stoppage pulled out and security forces withdrew to their barracks, witnesses said.

Government officials said each strike day costs the country about \$15 million. Market sources said the price of food and other essentials jumped at least 20

per cent during the strike.

The strike was called by three main opposition parties — the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-E-Islami — in their continuing efforts to topple Mrs. Khaleda and force elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

Mrs. Hasina told her followers late Thursday the next moves to oust Mrs. Khaleda could be more fierce but she still hoped the prime minister would "come to (her) senses".

The strike virtually crippled three-fourths of the country of 110 million, shutting down transport, business and other activities.

Two people were killed and more than 500 injured in clashes in strike-related

violence across the country, police said.

The northern Rajshahi Division was exempted from the strike after recent floods there claimed more than 400 lives.

The opposition accuses Mrs. Khaleda of by-election fraud and sweeping corruption and says no elections under her would be free and fair.

They want a non-partisan caretaker government, preferably headed by the chief justice, to supervise the next election, and maybe three or four other future polls to "institutionalise democracy" in this South Asian country.

Mrs. Khaleda has rejected the demands as unconstitutional.

Almost all opposition legislators resigned in December after a long boycott of parliament and demanded the government dissolve an assembly they said had lost its legitimacy.

Mrs. Khaleda has refused to dissolve parliament and call elections, which are not due till next March.

She told reporters Thursday she might announce a package of plans to "ensure people's rights and protect them in social and political life" when she returns from New York after attending the United Nations 50th anniversary.

The prime minister leaves for New York Saturday, aides said.

Reports from outside the capital said life was normal Friday and many offices and the country's two ports were open despite the Islamic weekend.

Quebec separatist wants new country, not renewed Canada

RIVIERE-DU-LOUP, Quebec (R) — Quebec separatist leader Lucien Bouchard said Thursday a vote for separation would be a mandate to make Quebec an independent nation, not the first step in negotiating a new role within Canada.

The comments by Mr. Bouchard, the champion of Quebec independence, were his strongest suggestion yet that the Oct. 30 referendum could lead to the breakup of Canada.

The remarks were published on the same day a new opinion poll showed Quebec separatists slightly ahead of Canadian unity forces in the referendum campaign.

The Angus Reid poll released Thursday to clients of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and investment dealer Wood Gundy Inc. and confirmed to Reuters, showed the separatists leading the federalists 51 per cent to 49 per cent.

The poll, based on interviews earlier this week with 1,000 Quebec voters, evenly divided an 11 per cent undecided factor.

The separatists trailed in several polls by 6 to 10 points earlier this month, but a drive by Mr. Bouchard in the past two weeks has apparently narrowed the gap to a virtual tie.

Mr. Bouchard, an impassioned orator who heads the Bloc Quebecois, a separatist party in Canada's national parliament, is seen as the politician who can best protect Quebec interests.

In an interview with the French-language Montreal newspaper *La Presse* published Thursday, Mr. Bouchard ruled out negotiat-

ing an arrangement to revamp the existing federation.

Mr. Bouchard was quoted by the newspaper as saying Quebec would "refuse all propositions from English Canada to renegotiate federalism. That will be too little, too late."

Later, Mr. Bouchard softened his stance, saying he would use a victory in the referendum to seek changes from the rest of Canada.

"The first goal is to achieve sovereignty for what it means and to use it as a lever to bring about change in the rest of Canada," he told a news conference following a speech in the small eastern Quebec community of Riviere-Du-Loup.

Quebec would declare its independence unilaterally if Canada refused to negotiate a new economic and political union after a majority vote for sovereignty, Mr. Bouchard said.

On Wednesday, he told reporters that if Canada refused to negotiate, Quebec could take immediate steps to declare independence.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has said he would not negotiate with Quebec and that a vote for sovereignty is a one-way ticket out of Canada.

But on Thursday Mr. Chretien suggested he would be prepared to consider constitutional discussions as long as the Quebec separatists were not in power in the province.

Rao gets good news before election

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — With elections just a few months away, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is getting his first good news in a long time.

Mr. Rao's Congress Party has been sliding in popularity for the last two years. It lost a series of key state elections; influential leaders broke away, charging corruption and misuse; and public dissent rose over Mr. Rao's economic reforms, which seemed to benefit the middle class but not the poor.

Pundits had virtually written off Mr. Rao's chances of reelection next year. Most predicted a standoff with Congress' chief rival, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP.

Now, Mr. Rao is watching his political enemies being stricken with troubles similar to his own.

On Tuesday, the chief executive of Uttar Pradesh, India's largest and most politically powerful state, resigned when her coalition unraveled after only four months.

Mayawati, who uses only one name, led a small party that appealed to low-caste Hindus. It governed on the strength of its alliance with the BJP.

The day after she quit, Mr. Rao's government imposed federal rule on the state, giving executive powers to a New Delhi-appointed

governor rather than any elected party.

Earlier this month, a contest for power rocked the BJP government in the western industrial state of Gujarat and nearly split the party.

The quarreling demolished the BJP's reputation as a highly disciplined, cohesive party — one of its main selling points to the voter.

In August, the populist government of Andhra Pradesh — Mr. Rao's home state where Congress was humbled in an election last year — collapsed because of a family feud. The chief minister's sons-in-law ousted him, claiming that his second wife was meddling in official affairs.

"Given the present state of disarray in opposition parties, the mess in Mr. Rao's own back yard suddenly does not seem so intractable as before," wrote political analyst Ajay Bose in the *Pioneer Daily*.

The disintegration of the Uttar Pradesh alliance set back the BJP's effort to build credibility with low-caste workers and farmers, and to shuck off its image as a party of businessmen and Brahmins, the highest caste.

Despite India's efforts to dismantle caste barriers, the ancient social hierarchy of Hinduism remains a potent force in politics.

For years, the Congress Party was considered the

protector of the underprivileged, giving it a monopoly on power in the populous and poor northern states.

Then the lower castes, along with many Muslims, abandoned Congress for new parties led by people of humble origin, like Ms. Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party.

Ms. Mayawati, a 39-year-old former school teacher, was the first chief minister from the lowest level in the caste system, the untouchables.

But she stretched the BJP's patience when she shifted senior bureaucrats from their jobs and replaced them with officials from low-caste backgrounds.

Some reports suggest that her split with the BJP opens the way for a potential alliance with Congress, which could reestablish its credentials with a crucial block of voters.

While Congress may draw some comfort from the travails of its rivals, "There is no reason for it to gloat," cautioned the *Calcutta-based Statesman* newspaper in an editorial.

"The unprincipled machinations over the last few months are not going to benefit any party, and may even lead to a general disenchantment with the political process as a whole," the paper said.

Seoul starts probe into ex-president's finances

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo announced Friday an investigation into allegations that former President Roh Tae-Woo had amassed hundreds of millions of dollars during his term in office.

"The government will conduct an investigation to clear citizens' suspicions. The probe will begin immediately," Mr. Lee's spokesman quoted him as telling the National Assembly.

He said the decision was reached at a meeting of top ministers Thursday.

On the same day, opposition lawmaker Park Kyedong brandished docu-

ments in parliament which he said proved that military-backed President Roh was illegally holding 400 billion won (\$522 million) of slush funds in 40 false or borrowed-name bank accounts.

Saying his information came from commercial bankers and individuals who had lent Mr. Roh their accounts, he demanded an immediate investigation.

Mr. Roh's office has denied the allegations.

An investigation by government prosecutors into similar allegations in August uncovered no evidence, but opposition parties dismissed the probe as a whitewash.

On Friday, opposition

groups demanded a thorough investigation to clear up all suspicions.

"It is important that everyone is sure there is no slush fund. The investigation must be thorough this time," said an official at the main opposition National Congress for New Politics.

The latest allegations sent the stock market slumping Thursday and Friday.

The fear is that an official investigation could flush out huge sums of black money used to play the markets. Individuals holding financial assets under false or borrowed names are subject to fines of 30 per cent of the assets.

President Kim Young-

Sam issued an emergency decree in 1993 outlawing false-name accounts as part of his drive against corruption and tax evasion.

Shares in the Sunkyoung group 78230.ks affiliate companies and Dong Bang corp 16500.ks, businesses whose chairmen are linked by marriage to Mr. Roh, were among the biggest losers.

South Korea is going through a painful period of transition from military-backed rule to democracy and dirty secrets of the past are coming into the open.

Slush funds topped up by contributions from big business are widely thought to have been a hidden part of

SPD set for mauling in Berlin election

BERLIN (R) — Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) look set to reap the fallout of months of internal bickering with a disastrous result in a state election this Sunday in the once divided city of Berlin.

A poll by Infratest Burke Berlin had the SPD diving to just 25 per cent from the 30 per cent it won in the 1990 election — scarcely a challenge to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), who were set to poll around 40 per cent.

"The political atmosphere is shaped by a drastic decline in support for the SPD. It has lost five per cent in the last month alone," said the Berlin daily *Der Tagesspiegel*.

A poor election result in the new capital, due to house the German parliament by the year 2000, would deal an emotional blow to the party on local

and national level — a far cry from the cold war years when West Berlin was a party stronghold.

SPD leader Rudolf Scharping put on a brave face and dismissed speculation that a bad result could fan a smouldering row over his leadership and create pressure for him to resign.

Asked if he would still be leading the SPD after the election, he told German radio: "I have no doubt, and I cannot imagine that anyone could have doubts about this."

Before and after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, the SPD governed West Berlin in partnership with the environmentalist Greens.

But since the post-unification election in 1990, which created a single city parliament and put an end to 50 years of divided city government, the SPD has failed to show much profile in the role of junior coalition part-

ner to the CDU.

Now the leadership row in Bonn has emerged to make matters worse, and even SPD supporters in Berlin say their candidate for mayor, Ingrid Stahmer, lacks the pulling-power to do much about it.

Mr. Kohl's junior coalition partner in Bonn, the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), are also bracing themselves for a further election defeat after crashing out of parliament in 11 state elections and a European election in the past two years.

The survey said the FDP were set to win a dismal 3.5 per cent in Berlin, halving their 1990 result and failing to clear the five per cent threshold needed to re-enter the assembly.

Such an embarrassing loss for the FDP in unified Germany's capital could undermine the position of Guenter Rexrodt, party chairman in Berlin, as eco-

nomics minister in the Bonn cabinet.

The election looks unlikely to change the present political line-up in Berlin and return a grand coalition of CDU in partnership with SPD led by a CDU mayor.

The battle for third place will be between the Greens, whom Infratest Burke put at 14 per cent, and the East German reform communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). The parties won nine per cent each in the last election.

The pollster gave the PDS — whose performance is often seen as a barometer for discontent in the east — 12.5 per cent, maintaining its level of support reached in the 1990 election.

While it could win around one-third of the vote in former Communist East Berlin, it is set to score just two per cent in the West.

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Mary Tyler Moore tried to help brother die

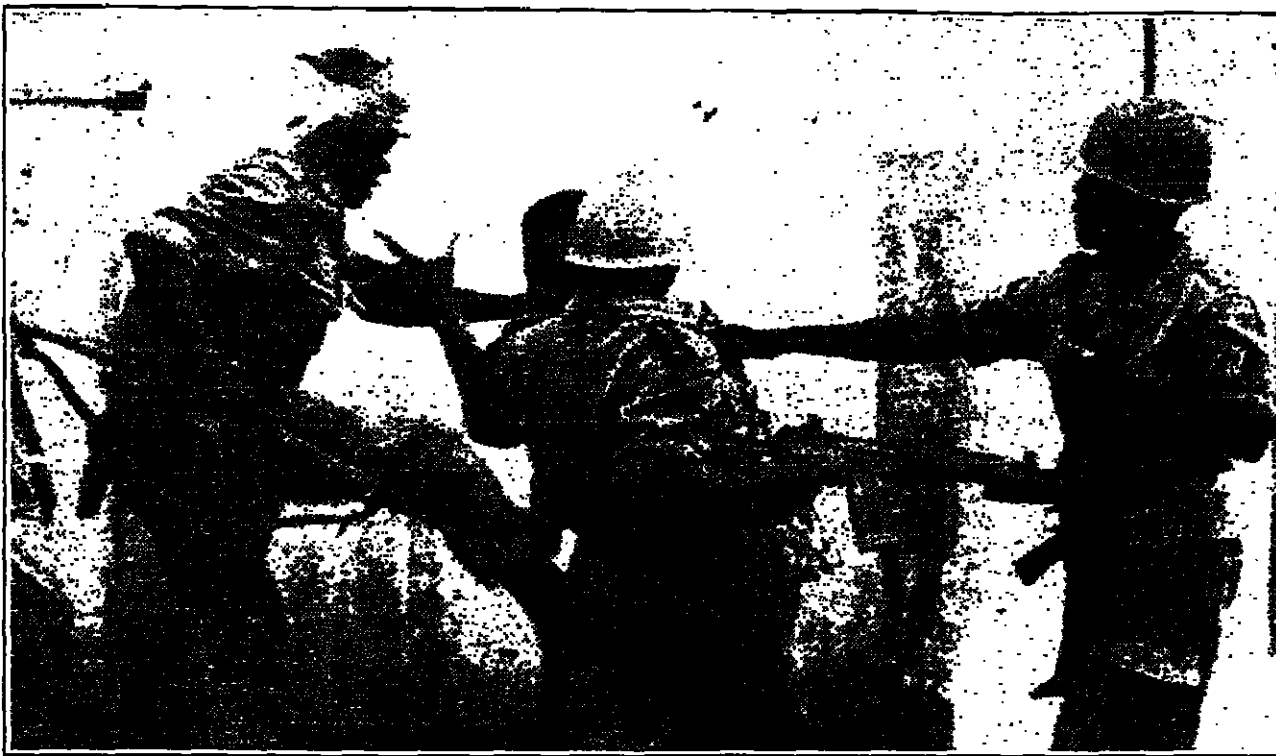
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Ivory Coast soldiers beat a man suspected of looting a pharmacy in Gagnoa a city 230 kilometres west of Abidjan. Opposition members erected barricades blocking the road and looted stores in protest against the upcoming elections (AFP photo)

Ivorian army stands by to halt election violence

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (AP) — Ivory Coast's army stood ready Friday to help prevent fresh political violence before and during Sunday's presidential election, which the main opposition has vowed to disrupt. Defence Minister Leon Konan Koffi said on state radio and television that President Henri Konan Bedie, one of two candidates contesting the poll, had decided political unrest that has killed at least eight people must stop. Government sources said troops were standing by to deploy and enable polling in flashpoints in the key cocoa-growing south west, where the opposition has its traditional power-base.

Religious leaders, meanwhile, urged all sides to step back and avoid any action that would escalate the country's worst electoral crisis since independence from France in 1960. "War is not inevitable," God says thou shalt not kill, he said. "The head of state has decided to put an end to the disorder by all means possible under the existing statutes," he said in a statement after Mr. Bedie met his army and security chiefs. "All the armed forces in addition to the National Gendarmerie will be more closely involved in timely actions to maintain order."

Non-aligned summit dimmed by Castro departure

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) — Cuba's President Fidel Castro unexpectedly left early from the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Colombia Thursday, robbing the meeting of one of its leading figures before it issued a final declaration. The 69-year-old Cuban leader, a founder of the non-aligned group, flew out of the port city of Cartagena, the summit venue, at around 2 p.m. (1900 GMT), heading for Cuba, airport officials said. No reason was given for his early departure from the summit, which was due to close Friday morning with the approval of a final declaration setting out the goals of the 113-member movement over the next three years.

Mr. Castro, who had flown to Cartagena Tuesday from Argentina where he had attended a two-day Ibero-American summit, had looked pale and tired as he sat through several hours of speeches Wednesday by non-aligned heads of state and government. Just before leaving Thursday, he spoke briefly to Colombian reporters, his voice noticeably hoarse. He had addressed the summit Wednesday, after his speech was brought forward from its originally scheduled time of Thursday. In a brief six-minute speech, commended by the summit chairman for its brevity, the Cuban president called for radical reforms of the United Nations, especially its Security Council.

Mr. Castro was one of several heads of delegation, from both member and guest nations, who left early Thursday. Leaders from Nicaragua, Kuwait, South Africa and Russia also departed, as did U.N. Secretary-general Boutros Ghali.

Chechens, Russians set to resume talks

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian and Chechen negotiators are to resume peace talks "in two or three days," officials on both sides said Friday, nearly two weeks after they were suspended amid mounting violence. "In two or three days, the commission on implementing the disarmament accord will resume its work," said Akhmed Zakayev, culture minister for the separatist Chechen government and one of the Chechen negotiators. He was speaking after meeting General Viktor Vlasenkov, deputy commander of federal troops in the breakaway Caucasus Republic, who told him overall Russian commander General Anatoly Shikirko was ready to resume talks. Moscow suspended negotiations on Oct. 9 after an attack which seriously injured General Anatoly Romanov, Gen. Shikirko's predecessor, and the bombardment of Chechen villages which left dozens dead.

Talks on implementing a July 30 accord on disarmament had been advancing painfully slowly even before they were suspended. The agreement was designed to end bitter fighting in Chechnya since Russian troops marched into the Caucasus Republic in December to quell a three-year-old independence drive. Up to 30,000 people are thought to have been killed. Meanwhile a Chechen separatist spokesman said Friday Russian helicopter gunships raided two Chechen villages southeast of the capital Grozny causing civilian casualties. Movladi Udugov, information minister in the breakaway Chechen government, told Moscow Echo Radio that up to eight helicopters backed by artillery and tanks late Thursday attacked the villages of Serzhen Yurt and Beni Khutor, some 40 kilometres from Grozny. He did not give a casualty toll. Meanwhile, the Russian military command in Chechnya, quoted by Interfax News Agency, said separatists attacked a Russian military convoy in Serzhen Yurt, killing one soldier and wounding another. The Interior Ministry did not report any air raids. Russia's chief peace negotiator, Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov, left Moscow for Grozny Friday. Interfax quoted officials in his ministry as saying, "Russian President Boris Yeltsin, declaring Chechnya the biggest disappointment of his presidency, threw his weight behind the peace process Thursday amid a split in the government and rising tension in the region."

"So many have been killed there. This is the biggest disappointment of my entire presidency," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in the Kremlin before a visit to the United States. "The main thing is to influence the peace process, talks and a settlement," he said. Mr. Yeltsin said he did not regret the decision to send in troops last December to

Yeltsin abruptly reverses decision to sack Kozyrev

MOSCOW (AP) — In a dramatic about-turn before summit talks in Paris, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would remain in office, only a day after announcing he would sack him. Mr. Yeltsin told an impromptu press conference before he got on the plane here that Mr. Kozyrev "is staying in office."

Mr. Kozyrev learnt that he would keep his post only minutes before leaving Moscow with Mr. Yeltsin for meetings with French President Jacques Chirac and later with U.S. President Bill Clinton. "What is (andrei) kozyrev's problem? He is always travelling and cannot handle the ministry's business. What Kozyrev needs is a man (deputy) who will take care of the workings of the ministry. We need to find him a deputy," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 Airport. Mr. Kozyrev, visibly nervous while waiting for Mr. Yeltsin to finish his brief comments to the press, appeared relieved after the president's change of mind. "The choice of such a deputy will ensure discipline and order," Mr. Yeltsin said. "I will help him in this, we are leaving together on the same plane."

Buchanan attacks Powell, says free ride is over

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Gen. Colin Powell's free political ride may be over after conservative commentator Pat Buchanan Thursday became the first Republican presidential candidate to take the gloves off and launch a bare-knuckle attack on the popular ex-soldier. "I will challenge General Powell from day one because if Powell were nominated as a Republican, that would be a triumph for the politics of opportunism," Mr. Buchanan told Reuters in an interview. "It would be an abandonment of the politics of conviction, and I'm going to stop it single-handedly."

Despite setback, Dole says bid to starve Cuba not over

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate-approved Cuba sanctions bill is far too weak to suit many Republicans, who still harbour hopes of dealing a knockout blow against Cuba with the help of House allies. A much tougher House-passed version seeks to dry up foreign investment in Cuba. Senate Republicans, forced to drop a similar provision for lack of votes, are seeking relief when the bill goes to conference with the House of Representatives to reconcile differences in the bills. Final passage of the somewhat emasculated Senate sanctions bill came Thursday on a 74-24 vote, and Senate majority leader Bob Dole said his Democratic opponents should not be smug. "I am confident the House-Senate conference will be able to find a way to prevent Fidel Castro from using foreign investment to prolong his tyranny," he said. "That is the issue. Do we want to allow the hemisphere's last dictator to replace his lost aid from the Soviet empire with Western investment?"

Major challenge faces U.N. — keeping politicians quiet

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Achieving world peace may be easier than the task facing organisers of the United Nations' 50th anniversary festivities: Getting all the more than 180 world leaders to keep their speeches to five minutes or less. Leaders of countries ranging from heavyweights such as the United States, Russia and China down to tiny San Marino are to address the U.N. General Assembly over three days starting Sunday. Speakers include President Bill Clinton, Cuban President Fidel Castro, French President Jacques Chirac and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The speeches are limited to five minutes. General Assembly speeches have been averaging about 20 minutes during recent sessions. During the anniversary ceremonies, speakers will face a small lamp which turns amber after 4 1/2 minutes and red when time's up. For many leaders of lesser-known countries such as Guinea-Bissau, Vanuatu and Cape Verde, the speeches provide a rare opportunity to stand before a major international gathering. But U.N. officials want to make sure that no one gets carried away. General Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral of Portugal warned Wednesday that he would pull the plug on anyone who ran over the allotted time. "If each spoke for seven minutes instead of five, we would have an extra 6 1/2 hours of speeches," Mr. Freitas do Amaral told a sparsely attended General Assembly session. Mr. Freitas do Amaral has been circulating memos to U.N. missions advising them of the time limit. Limiting remarks to five minutes could be a new experience for some of the more loquacious world leaders. Mr. Castro, who is scheduled to speak Sunday, rambled on for 4 1/2 hours when he first addressed the General Assembly in 1960. During his last U.N. speech in 1979, he trimmed his remarks to 2 hours. U.N. officials hope President Clinton, the leadoff speaker, will set the tone for brevity by sticking to the limit. But brevity has not been a hallmark of the Clinton oratorical style. During a 1988 Democratic convention speech nominating Michael Dukakis for president, Mr. Clinton spoke for 35 minutes — more than twice the allotted time. Delegates shouted "wrap it up" and saved their loudest cheer when he began, "In closing..." "If Clinton doesn't go over the limit, we think the others will keep to it," said one U.N. official on condition of anonymity. "But if he goes over, we're afraid the others will too."



Andrei Kozyrev

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U.N. for all seasons

THE GOLDEN Jubilee of the United Nations (U.N.) which the world leaders are about to celebrate is an auspicious occasion to take stock of its achievements, failings and, above all, the old premises of which it was established. The international organisation was founded 50 years ago by the victors of World War II basically to reflect the "new international order," at the time. Those were the years when Japan and Germany were the primary losers, and the U.N. Charter came to give expression to that reality. Then was also the era of colonialism when most of the developing world was under direct or indirect colonial rule of major international powers. There was not only a dangerous gap between the South and North in that period but also a direct and brazen exploitation of the wealth and resources of the poor countries.

Five decades after, these old realities have been replaced by a set of new regional and international conditions that practically wiped out the 1945 global picture. That is why the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the U.N. must not be confined to joyful festivities but should include a thorough soul-searching exercise that aims to put the international organisation on a new path that gives expression to the contemporary global scene.

There are already voices calling for the expansion of the U.N. Security Council with a view to giving Tokyo and Bonn permanent seats. The Non-Aligned Movement is also on record as demanding such a place for the member states. No doubt this would mean according an African, Asian and a Latin American country permanent seats on the council to represent the three major regions of the movement. Yet there is much more to be done than mere enlargement of some of the U.N. major bodies. The entire charter must be up for review in order to incorporate into it the experiences of the past five decades. Surely after so many years, the organisation is due to amend its ways and methods of work including its decision-making processes.

In this vein, we believe that the ongoing efforts to make the composition of the Security Council more democratically representative of the international community must coincide with making processes also more democratic.

In addition, and in spite of all the talk about the negative features of the U.N. bureaucracy and how it is bloated and run by nepotism and favouritism, not much has been done so far to change the image of the international body. We hope, therefore, that the world leaders who will assemble for the commemoration of the U.N.'s anniversary will take time to examine new thoughts to make the U.N. that much more viable, cost-effective and simply effective.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i discussed the status of the Arab League in the Arab World, expressing the view that this institution is going through a slow process of demise largely due to the actions of the Arab member countries and the failures of its secretary general. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Arab League which has been suffering from political bankruptcy over the past decade, is now financially bankrupt because the Arab countries have failed to honour their financial commitments to its agencies. Indeed, many voices were raised recently wondering about the continued existence of such institution, whose members often proved to be working against their own interests, he continued. The league is a liability rather than an asset to the Arab World. Arab people were thus not surprised when they recently heard the Israeli foreign minister suggesting that the Arab League be transformed into a Middle East institution encompassing Israel along with the other Arab and non Arab states in the region, according to the writer. He said the Arab League secretary general, who is supposed to steer the destiny of this institution, has regrettably failed to take prompt action to ensure its revival or even to openly declare the realities and the facts about the situation so as to urge Arab states to act and save the Arab League from a shameful fate.

ATTACKING ISRAEL for holding on to its occupation in southern Lebanon, a writer in Al Ra'i daily said that it is this occupation that is causing so much tension in the whole region and endangering the peace process. Yousef Damra said that as long as Israel insists on occupying part of Lebanon, it will inevitably continue to face resistance activity from the Lebanese people, who seek to liberate their lands. No matter how brutal its actions and its raids on the Lebanese civilians might be, Israel will continue to face attacks until its troops leave Lebanese territory, he stressed. Israel is wrong to believe that through its raids on southern Lebanon, it will force Syria to come to the negotiating table and accept Israeli terms. Israel is wrong to compare its occupation of Lebanese lands to the Syrian presence in the country, said the writer. He said Syrian troops came to Lebanon upon the request of the Beirut government.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jordan will not let down its people

THE JORDANIAN move to extend the validity of the two-year "travel" documents issued to residents of the West Bank by three years, coupled with the assurance given to residents of refugee camps that they would not be evicted despite a court ruling, comes as a watershed for many Palestinians who are confused and in despair over their lack of control over the events taking place in the Middle East peace process.

For one thing, extending the validity of the travel documents — which do not grant citizenship rights — means a dramatic reduction in the red tape and bureaucracy involved in renewing the documents at the end of every two years. For another, the five-year validity of the document is an indirect facilitation of the issuance of foreign visas to the holders (it was not secret that many embassies refused point blank to issue visas to holders of the two-year documents).

The extension of the validity of the passports should actually allow many Palestinians to take up employment outside — an opportunity that was largely denied when they held the limited two-year documents.

Apart from the technical aspects, the philosophy behind the Jordanian decision is simple and clear: The Kingdom is living up to the pledge that it stands ready to extend whatever help it could to the Palestinian residents of the West Bank. Nothing more, nothing less.

An indirect but forceful impact of the Jordanian decision is an element of comfort to the Palestinians living in the West Bank and complements the moves of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to expand autonomy ahead of final status negotiations. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat should be gratified over this element of comfort to his constituency at a time when he needed every iota of assurance that he could extend to his people.

His Majesty King Hussein's public assurance to the residents of Palestinian refugee camps that they need not worry about the legal wrangle over the ownership of the

land where they have set up homes is another resounding echo of the Jordanian commitment to help the Palestinians.

There could be many ways of reading the development, but for us in Jordan it means only one thing: Another cornerstone in Jordan's efforts to consolidate the concept of the one Jordanian-Palestinian family and advance a unified national approach to the fast-moving events in the region in the wake of the breakthroughs in the Middle East peace process.

Jordan needs the combined effort of every citizen in the country to realise the full economic and political potential of the opportunities that peace has offered to the region. It is totally unacceptable that a major segment of the Jordanian society is suddenly exposed to an eventuality that threatens their living while the country is on the fast track, hopefully, towards addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment and an uplifting of the standard of living for all its people.

The so-called expert observers of the Middle East scene, would be shortsighted to interpret the latest Jordanian moves as warranted by unexpected developments. If anything, they should take into consideration Jordan's established track record since its inception of being a safe haven for every Arab and appreciate that the decision to extend the validity of the temporary passports and to undertake whatever is needed to resolve the problem of the camps is very much in line with the Kingdom's policies.

His Majesty said as much — although not in so many words — when he expressed dismay over the alarm voiced by the residents of the camps following the court ruling that the owners of the land where the camps are built have the right to claim the land. What the King implied was that every citizen of this country should have known that the leadership here would not let down its people, whether in terms of land or civil rights or anything else.

Arab reconciliation prerequisite for Gulf security, prosperity

Reviewed By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press last week focussed on the situation in Iraq, the question of passports for the Palestinians, and the controversy over refugee camps, as well as other domestic affairs.

A call by the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, for the lifting of sanctions on Iraq was addressed by a number of columnists who lauded the Arab leader's courage. According to Sultan Al Hattab in Al Ra'i, Sheikh Zayed's call opens the door for Arab states to embark on reconciliation efforts and to help save the Iraqi people from their suffering. Sheikh Zayed's call should receive positive response from the other Arab leaders, whose countries are in disarray following the Gulf crisis, he said. The writer said that the Arab leader's call marks the start of a new policy on the part of the Gulf states, which, he said, can take the lead in ending Arab differences and save their 18 million kinsmen from their ordeal.

Mohammad Subeili, a columnist in Al Dustour praised Sheikh Zayed for his courageous stand and said the Arab leader has no doubt realised that security for the Gulf states can only be guaranteed through a general Arab reconciliation.

Keeping the Arab people of Iraq facing starvation means planting time bombs and mines that could blow off any time, he said. The writer said all the Arab masses are now awaiting a positive step from the Gulf states and hope that these states will open a dialogue with Iraq to pave the way for a new Arab order and open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations based on mutual respect and non interference in other countries' internal affairs.

Echoing the praise for Sheikh Zayed was Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i, who said that the 18 million Iraqis should not be left to face death through starvation and sickness. Predicting that Iraq will witness developments after the referendum on President Saddam Hussein's new mandate in power, the writer expressed belief that this referendum will be followed by democratic steps like political pluralism, political parties and free expression. He said that Arab leaders should give support to the Iraqis and their unity and territorial integrity and do what they can to prevent the disintegration of Iraq.

Hussein Abu Orabi, a writer in Al Dustour, thanked Sheikh Zayed for his call to save the Iraqis from starvation. He said that the Arab League should take the lead in opening dialogues between Iraq and the Gulf states with the purpose of ending any lingering differences and suspicions.

It is more important to protect the Arab Nation's interests than comply with resolutions from the United Nations, which seeks to protect the 'Western nations' interests alone, said the writer. Why should the Arab states align themselves behind the West when their own interests and their Arab order are in jeopardy, asked the writer. Iraq, he said, is an Arab country and therefore a solution

for its problems should come from the Arab countries themselves.

Abdullah Al Qaq, a writer in Al Dustour, praised the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifeh, for his call to convene an Arab summit designed to unify Arab countries position vis-a-vis the Middle East question and for ending differences with Iraq. The Emir of Bahrain's call, coming simultaneously with the call by Sheikh Zayed to end the sanctions on Iraq, reflect the fact that the Arab Gulf states have realised that their interests remain in danger as long as the Arab states remain in disarray. If the Gulf states, which were involved in the Gulf crisis, are themselves calling for such reconciliation and the lifting of sanctions on Iraq, then the other Arab countries ought to respond favourably to the call, he added.

Describing as very wise a step taken by the government to allow all Palestinians to retain their passports with five year validity instead of two, a writer in Al Dustour said that the announcement brought reassurance to the Palestinians at a time when the Palestine question is passing through a transitional period during which the Palestine National Authority is trying to ensure the restoration of Palestinian lands and rights, said

Senator Robert Dole, who is spearheading the efforts for the move, is aiming to win the favour of the Zionists on whom he counts to be elected president next year. The paper called for a United Arab and Islamic move to abort Mr. Dole's attempts and reaffirm the fact that the holy city of Jerusalem is occupied territory that belongs to the Arab Nation and that the Israelis should pull out from that city in the course of implementing Security Council Resolution 242.

A writer in Al Ra'i called on Israel to pull out its forces from southern Lebanon so as to avoid further confrontations with Hizbollah and the Lebanese resistance. Mahmoud Rimawi said that as long as southern Lebanon remains occupied, tension will persist and the violence will continue. No one can blame the resistance for fighting off the occupation forces. All the blame should be squarely placed on the Israelis who, said the writer, do not wish to withdraw from Syrian and Lebanese territories occupied since 1967. The writer said that the current Israeli threats to Lebanon following the resistance attacks on Israeli troops create new tensions and undermine efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace on all tracks.

A writer in Al Dustour tackled a report released by the Public

Security Department showing that drug addiction in Jordan is on the rise. The report sounds the alarm and calls for the concerned authorities to undertake practical steps to stem this dangerous trend, said Mohammad Sqour, a former minister of social development. The writer said that attention should be given to the family institution at which awareness programmes should be directed. He said the second institution is the school, where the youth gather and which forms a fertile ground for delinquency and for harmful habits to grow unless the right supervision and care are provided for the young. The writer said that the government should apply stricter rules and impose heavier penalties on drug traffickers and ought to develop modern means for treating the drug addicts.

A writer in Al Ra'i directed attention to the schools in Jordan, saying that the Ministry of Education should give better attention to its schools, which lately witnessed the murder of a student at the hands of his mates during a recess. Sultan Al Hattab said that it is a known fact that the educational process has been on the retreat in Jordan prompting, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to urge the Ministry of Education to overhaul the whole system and find the right remedy. Furthermore, it was His Majesty King Hussein who, two years ago, drew attention to the fact that drug addiction was growing in Jordan, noting that the practice was especially spreading among the young, noted the writer. He said that the Ministry of Education holds the prime responsibility not only for providing education to the children but also for ensuring that they grow up to be useful assets to their society.

Denial of freedom leads to violence and grief

THE FOLLOWING article by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is reprinted from the Times (of London)

ON THE cusp of a new millennium, we see the human spirit under siege as never before. Across the world, the voices of millions are crying out in desperation for relief and guidance. Many of our fellow human beings still live in abject poverty and total degradation. The new world order, with its promise of peace through collective security, has come upon a baptism of fire. And still it would appear that no common frame of reference, no new consensus, no global ethic has emerged to assure the peoples of the world that they can lead peaceful, serene, and decent lives.

In the midst of this confusion, it was heartening to hear the clarity of Pope John Paul II's address to the United Nations. The Pope called for a complete reappraisal of the current conditions in the world. It is a tribute to His Holiness that this call will ring powerfully in all quarters of the globe.

For we must learn the lessons of the 20th century, no matter how hard, and apply them without fear or favour. We must revise our definitions of familiar concepts, and adopt fresh practices in all fields of human endeavour. These must provide a truly substantial ethic for a new era, directly related to the needs and wishes of the peoples of the world.

It is the fundamental split between "me" and "you," between "us" and "them," which is at the root of all opposition, all polarities and all conflicts. It is the denial of the shared humanity of the other and the rights that flow from it which lead to the nightmare of violence and terror.

Salvation of contemporary society will lie in recognition and respect for every culture, irrespective of difference and variation. Each human culture strives to answer the fundamental questions of human existence and each must merit recognition and respect as such. From our perspective in the Middle East where an

historic accommodation of differences is slowly taking place, there is no point more crucial than this. For after decades of conflict, Arabs and Jews are finally, beginning to recognise each others' hopes, fears and beliefs.

Islam has been portrayed by some as a fanatical and intolerant creed that utterly rejects the other. But faith in Islam is a matter of conscience, and conscience cannot be compelled. The Holy Koran is most emphatic on freedom of belief: "There shall be no compulsion in religion." (2:256). It also proclaims: "Harken you who disbelieve; I do not worship what you worship, nor do you worship what I worship." The chapter ends with a categorical statement: "You have your religion, and I have mine." (109:2-7).

Historically, Islam's ability to accommodate diversity was the fountainhead of its success. Islamic culture, at its height encompassed a dazzling fusion of traditions, which would not have been possible without respect and tolerance for that which was different, and that which was other. In our efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, we are following these principles, which remain compelling even when they are ignored, within the Muslim World and beyond.

Freedom and justice cannot simply be defined by the absence of tyranny and oppression. Freedom, in the words of the Pope, is a measure of humanity's dignity and greatness; while modern totalitarianism is an assault on our dignity, denying us the most elementary and inalienable rights. It is a challenge to the individual's spiritual growth and the moral vitality of nations.

I therefore welcome the Pope's call for a human ethic of solidarity. For only such an ethic can build a bridge across the gap between "us" and "them," and make us realise that we are all "us."

Only such an ethic can provide a viable basis for the next millennium of human history. I applaud His Holiness for this initiative, and wholeheartedly endorse it.

LETTERS

Heritage versus development

To the Editor:

WORDS CANNOT express how I felt while listening to a foreign reporter defending one of "Amman's landmarks" that is scheduled to be torn down in the name of development. I decided right there and then that this time I am not going to be one of the numerous bystanders who always see but do not say.

This foreign reporter saw that "Mata Am Hashem," a place a lot of people know and have been to, was worth including in a documentary he was filming on Jordan's nightlife for a European television station. Now some might accuse me of being shallow and probably even vain for giving a lot of importance to the issue of a restaurant being torn down while there are a lot of more important issues worth raising. But this is not the issue. The importance lies in the fact that places like "Hashem" and "Qahwat Al Central" which is awaiting the same fate, are unique in many ways. They have been part of Amman's heritage with memories of at least three generations of Ammanites. "Hashem" has been a place where a plate of "hummus" swims in a pool of live oil slides over the invisible line that have always separated classes and brought them together.

Countries all over the world are working hard on preserving old buildings and sights that are considered part of their heritage, while it seems that we are working hard on tearing down such sights for the sake of modernisation and development. But it should not slip our mind that modern is not always better and that this type of development is not what we need.

If tearing down "Hashem" and Qahwat Al Central" is the start, I would hate to even think what the end would be. Then I shall only find consolation in a few pictures my family has kept over the years of the old city of Amman and very few books written on the history of the city. Not a lot to show of our preserved heritage.

Lina H. Kasim,
Amman.

King heads for U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

President Liamine Zougar and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

On Thursday King Hussein urged the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to contribute to efforts for peace around the world, especially in the Middle East region.

In an address to the NAM summit held in Colombia and delivered on his behalf by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Khabazi, King Hussein called on the movement to reexamine its strategies with a view to better serving the interests of non-aligned nations and the objectives of the movement itself.

Emphasising Jordan's keenness on promoting the role of the Non-Aligned Movement, King Hussein said that NAM nations should encourage a dialogue between the North and the South and to step up coop-

eration among the countries of the Southern Hemisphere themselves.

Stressing that the movement should give priority to socio-economic development, the King said that such a development can flourish in an atmosphere of peace and democracy and security for all nations.

The King said that the countries of the Middle East embarked on a peace process at the 1992 Madrid conference to help implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which call for the exchange of land for peace. He said Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in October 1994, has regained its lost territory and water rights and was striving to achieve comprehensive peace in the region.

The MENA conference in Amman, the King said, represents the crowning of efforts aimed at promoting socio-economic develop-

ment in the Middle East and noted that great hopes were pinned on the projects to be discussed and implemented through the meeting.

With reference to the situation in the Gulf region, King Hussein said Jordan respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and the non-interference by any country in the internal affairs of another.

Based on this concept, Jordan supports the right of the United Arab Emirates in regaining sovereignty over the Gulf islands occupied by Iran through peaceful means and in line with international norms and laws, he said.

The King referred to Iraq, and commended its decision to recognise the international boundaries with Kuwait. He called for the lifting of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq in order to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and help safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Jordan also demands that Iraq release Kuwaiti citizens held since the Gulf crisis and

that Baghdad implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions, he said. He expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people's aspirations to democratic rule and other rights.

King Hussein called for the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction and urged the Non-Aligned Movement to play a key role in the achievement of that objective.

King Hussein said that foreign debts represent the main stumbling bloc in the way of developing countries' struggle for development. The Non-Aligned Movement can help democratise world organisations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and help to bring about reforms to these institutions which he said hold the upperhand in the world economy.

The King said that through its efforts the Non-Aligned Movement can influence the U.N. organisations and agencies to help deal with the root causes of financial difficulties facing the developing world.

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And extend their sincere and heartfelt
condolences to the members of the
Shoman family.

May God bless her soul

Palestinians protest land grabs

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian-ruled West Bank town of Jericho on Friday.

A joint Israel-Palestinian police patrol ordered his convoy to remove the blue and white Israeli flags it was flying and an argument broke out when the drivers refused, Israel Radio said.

At one point, a Palestinian policeman cocked his weapon and aimed it at the Israeli legislator, radio reports said.

A shooting incident, particularly involving an Israeli lawmaker, could have broken the delicate accord, which

sees the Jericho enclave as a model for future expansion of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

Mr. Ze'evi said he left his submachine gun behind in the car and suggested that otherwise, he would have opened fire.

"If someone aims a loaded weapon at me and maybe intends using it, that will be the last time in their life they will cock a weapon at an Israeli," said Mr. Ze'evi.

Israeli forces arrived shortly after the confrontation and escorted the convoy out of Jericho, flags waving.

Libya resumes expulsions

(Continued from page 1)

was on its way.

Frustration among the 650 Palestinians aboard the ferry Countess M boiled over into anger and a mob got into a shouting match with the captain and crew of the Greek-owned ship, scaring away a medical team that was trying to board.

"It looked like a mutiny," said one eyewitness.

Tension subsided when five Syrian officials boarded the Countess M and explained efforts to end their week-long plight, according to Costas Tsikkos, the agent in Cyprus for the ship's owner.

Mr. Tsikkos said a ship capable of taking 300 passengers would arrive in Cyprus at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) on Saturday.

"It is a small boat. There will be a second trip to take the rest of them," he added.

The 650 Palestinians, more than half of them children, arrived off Larnaca on Tuesday after being ordered out of Libya last Friday and were turned away by Syria.

Syria then said it would collect about 600 of the Palestinians on the Countess M with Syrian papers.

Hrawi outlines his policy

(Continued from page 1)

Arab-Israeli disputes. The guerrillas were on alert for threatened Israeli retaliation following the killing of nine soldiers in the last week.

Mr. Hrawi stressed that Lebanon will continue to be allied with Syria in peace negotiations with Israel, which have been deadlocked for months.

Turning to reconstruction, Mr. Hrawi said: "We shall spare no effort to speed up the rebuilding of our country. This is the cornerstone of stabilisation."

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who will remain in

office as well, is engaged in a \$18 billion plan to rebuild war-shattered Beirut and restore Lebanon to its pre-war position as a regional financial and business hub.

Parliament's move Thursday marked a major constitutional departure in Lebanon, where presidents have until now been limited to one six-year term, and undermined Syrian influence.

Extending Mr. Hrawi's term, which had been scheduled to end in five weeks, was widely expected after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad made clear last week that he wanted Mr. Hrawi to stay on.

Questions remain unanswered

(Continued from page 12)

passports into five-year passports.

He said every Jordanian citizen was entitled to obtaining a family registration book but noted that holders of Jordanian passports were not necessarily Jordanian citizens.

Assistant Companies Controller at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Ghaleb Al Dabbas said he believes that West Bankers holding permanent passports had the right to open companies in Jordan although his department had not received clear

instructions. Director of Education at the Ministry of Education Khaled Nabtiti said non-Jordanians could be admitted at the ministry's schools provided that they possessed residence permits issued by the Ministry of Interior.

However, director of the Follow-up and Inspection Department at the Ministry of Interior Issam Al Khatib said West Bankers entitled to obtaining five-year passports could not obtain family registration books and that their children could not join government schools.

On behalf of ARAB BANK in Europe and the United States

FAROUK EL-KHAROUF
JOHN CARNEY
NOFAL BARBAR
SAMIR MOUBARAK
GEORGE KOUTSANTONIS

INGOMAR KIEBACK
JAD SWEIDAN
GEORGE KNITTEL
TOUFIC DAJANI
MARTINO ALONZO

Mourn the passing of the late Najwa Abdul Hameed Shoman

Sister of Mr. Abdul Majeed Shoman

Chairman of the Board / General Manager

and Mr. Khaled Shoman

Deputy Chairman of the Board / Deputy General Manager

And extend their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the
members of the Shoman family.

May God bless her soul

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Lina H. Kassis
Amman

Canadian trade team due here today ahead of summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high-level Canadian delegation arrives here Saturday to discuss preparation for next week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit and Canadian role in the gathering.

The Canadian team, headed by Member of Parliament Mac Harb and including representatives of several companies, will seek to identify "possible areas of cooperation between Canada and Jordan and start the match-making process between Canadian companies and their Jordanian counterparts," the Canadian embassy said.

The embassy said in a press statement that the businessmen in the delegation, which will stay in Amman for three days, represent the services, aviation and construction sectors as well as the governments of Quebec and Alberta and Canadian-Arab organisations.

Canada, which maintains excellent relations with Jordan and has extended sizeable assistance to developing

the energy sector of the Kingdom, has assumed a high profile role in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. It chairs the multilateral working group on refugees.

The Canadian delegation is scheduled to hold talks on the government level with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Minister of Posts and Communications Jamal Saraireh, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Sameeh Darwazah, Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat.

On the private sector level, the team will meet with representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the special committees preparing private sector participation in the MENA summit, the Jordanian Businessmen Association and Jordanian companies.

The Canadian embassy noted that Canada's participation in the MENA summit was initiated during a visit that His Majesty King Hussein paid to that country in April.

"Since then, Canada has

assisted the Jordanian private sector's participation for the summit through a number of round-table meetings in both Jordan and Canada.

"Canada's interest in the summit is reflected through its private sector business participation in the summit," said the embassy, noting that up to 30 companies were expected to be represented at the summit and some of them were also represented in the mission headed by MP Harb.

The Canadian team to the summit is expected to be among the largest at the conference. It will include chairman, presidents, managing directors and senior executives from Consult Group, Candesal, Realment, the Export Development Corporation, the International Financial Services Institute, TriStar Industries, SNG La Valin Group, Kass Investments, Philip Environmental Inc., the Diesel Division of General Motors, Ramori Canada Inc., Debuka Investments Corporation, the Canada Post Corporation, Strategic Business Trends Inc., Exultate Inc., Ingersoll-Rand, the New Middle East Consortium, Enterprises Vibec Inc., and AT & IT.

Egypt to attend Amman Economic Summit 'with aggressiveness, without inhibitions'

By George Hishmeh USIA staff writer

CAIRO — Egypt, the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, will be attending the upcoming Amman Economic Summit late this month "with aggressiveness, without inhibitions, and with a clear vision" that the meeting's main objective should be peace in the Middle East, said Ambassador Raouf Saad of the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs.

Mr. Saad, who is Egypt's top official involved in the coordination of this economic summit, stated that the Cairo government is determined to see at Amman "the formulation of a sound basis (for the region), politically and economically."

The three-day Amman Economic Summit starting Oct. 29 is expected to see the participation of more than 1,000 government leaders and businessmen — about 150 from the United States alone — to herald the opening of a government-business partnership in the economic development of the Middle East and North Africa in the wake of the Middle East peace process. The conference is a follow-up to last October's Casablanca economic summit that saw for the first time Arab and Israeli political and business leaders mingle together under the same roof.

Speaking in an interview, Ambassador Saad said Egypt

considers the Amman summit "as only a step within the peace process (in order) to consolidate our efforts on the peace track."

He said his government is convinced that "we cannot disengage the peace process from economic or regional cooperation."

He said he saw a link between the peace process on the bilateral track and the economic dimension of the peace process on the regional or multilateral track.

Egypt, he elaborated, does not see these regional programmes as a "tool for peace." Rather, he went on, Egypt's participation emanates from its belief that it is present contributing to regional cooperation "in anticipation of peace." He remarked, this view is contrary to the one which believes that peace dividend should come first and that peace would come later.

Here, he repeated his government's thinking that peace in the region should be comprehensive and must include the Lebanese and Syrians, who are both boycotting the Amman meetings. He also said it was necessary for the Palestinians to know what they could expect at the end of the process because additional setbacks "would hinder our efforts" which started four years ago this month in Madrid, when Israel met face-to-face with her immediate neighbours for the first time, under U.S. and Russian sponsorship.

Ambassador Saad cautioned that cooperation in the Middle East should be established on what he termed a "balanced" peace. "If you look at the economic situation in the Middle East, it is very unbalanced," he pointed out. "You have a per capita income of \$14,000 a year in Israel and an average of \$1,000 in the neighbouring countries."

Mr. Saad continued,

"these disparities add a lot to the suspicion and the harping that exists." In order to check this negative trend, he suggested the introduction of "economic cooperation on a balance basis so as to reduce the disparities and give all parties positive dividends."

Here, he cautioned that the benefits from the peace process "should not go to one party at the expense of another," stressing "we have to ensure that this is a win-win game."

Ambassador Saad pointed out that "the area is full of suspicions that Israel is coming to control the economies of the region."

He disagreed with this point of view. "I personally don't think (Israel) is capable of doing that and I do not think it wants that."

His reasoning is that if it was control that Israel wanted, then it would not be integrating in the region; moreover, an attempt to control would impact negatively on the peace process. Additionally, he did not think Israel was capable of economic hegemony since it only has "five or six" products that may be eye-catching and some of these may not be desirable for the Arab countries.

He then went on to challenge the notion that all regional projects in the Middle East should always involve the four core countries: Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian areas — "a narrow vision," he said.

At this point, he explained the reluctance of some Arab countries in the Gulf area to participate in the proposed Middle East Development Bank as stemming from the fact that they still do not have peace with Israel. But he was certain all the Gulf states

would be coming to the Amman conference.

Ambassador Saad was confident that the regional institutions that were promised in the Casablanca Declaration would be announced in Amman although he did say that there are still some intricate details to be worked out about interim arrangements and about the location of these institutions. He spoke matter-of-factly, however, about the Middle East Development Bank being headquartered in Egypt.

"It is very important," Ambassador Saad stressed repeatedly, "that all parties (at Amman) have to take part effectively in formulating the economic terms of the regional cooperation to make sure we are establishing cooperation on a balanced peace."

Responding to a question, said his delegation will be producing a booklet sometime next week describing all the projects it hopes to bring to the attention of the other government and business participants in Amman. He said they cover various sectors but he would not give out any details since some are undergoing last-minute revision.

He also said that a large delegation — "about 75" — from the Egyptian private sector will be in the Jordanian capital as well.

Speaking in a television interview earlier this week, Joan Spero, the U.S. undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, described Egypt as "an integral part of the multilateral groups that grow out of the Madrid process," stressing that "Egypt is really a core relationship for the United States."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

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SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into new activities during the daytime today since it will be evening before you can get a private affair working properly towards a solution.

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PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get busy improving your home and avoid a fellow associate who is difficult at this time. Persevere in the career activities you are currently doing.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

INDO-JORDAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LTD. NOTICE FOR INVITATION TO BID FOR POWER/WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK FOR NON-PLANT BUILDINGS/FACILITIES

INDO-JORDAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LTD. (IJC), INVITES TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF MATERIALS AND ERECTION INCLUDING CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF THE FOLLOWING BUILDINGS/ FACILITIES AT THE PROJECT SITE IN THE SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONES AT ESHIDIYA.

TENDER REF. NO.	BUILDINGS / FACILITIES
C-006/95	UNDER GROUND WORKS FOR SERVICE WATER DISTRIBUTION AND ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION INCLUDING A SUB-STATION BUILDING, COMMUNICATION NETWORK & FIRE ALARM SYSTEM.

THE TENDER DOCUMENTS COVERING THE SCOPE OF WORK, TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AND OTHER GENERAL/ COMMERCIAL TERMS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR OFFICE.

INTERESTED ELECTRO-MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANIES HAVING EXPERIENCE IN ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REGISTERED WITH MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS IN JORDAN (GRADE LAND ID) MAY COLLECT THE ABOVE TENDER DOCUMENTS ON PAYMENT BY CASH/DEMAND DRAFT (ADDRESSED TO "INDO-JORDAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LTD." PAYABLE AT AMMAN) A SUM OF JD 100 FOR EACH TENDER DOCUMENT FROM THE MANAGER (ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL) INDUSTRY CHEMICALS CO., 3RD FLOOR, DELMON BUILDING, P.O. BOX NO. 926787, AMMAN 11110, ON ANY WORKING DAY TILL 31.10.95.

BIDDERS SHALL SUBMIT THEIR BIDS SUPERSCRIBING THE TENDER REF. NO. ON THE ENVELOPE ON OR BEFORE 1400 HRS. ON 07.12.95.

BABU K. VERGHESE
MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

ACROSS

- Purloin
- Diminish gradually
- Bede or Smith
- Author Cather
- Distinct entity
- Lombardy town
- Feet
- Award-winning newscaster
- Grand —, N.S.
- Fourteen pounds in Leeds
- Bible book
- Former
- Oklahomans
- Fodder
- Remain firm
- Supportive device
- Parisian father
- relief
- Assistant
- Oodles
- Pinball finisher
- Reel's partner
- Spree
- Asian peninsula
- Pair
- Sandburg
- Happy —
- Turned the hose on
- Object to keep a wheel from rolling
- Disembodied spirits
- Obstacle
- Country duo
- Mom
- Legislative assembly
- Gaelic
- Region
- Aconcagua's range
- Hollow stem
- Capital on the Aar
- Alan and Cheryl

DOWN

- Swinging blow
- Coronet
- Funnies' bunny's foe
- Clerical vestment
- Inverness girls
- Commotion
- Presently
- Summarized
- Summer in Cannes
- Pale brown
- Extinguish
- Venomous snake
- Golden touch king
- French wine region
- Koppel
- majesty
- Rowing items
- Outpouring
- Seaman
- Branco
- Melville's sailor
- Pie — mode
- Porker's pad
- Fly high
- Overly confident
- Scarlett's home
- Ear parts
- Military officer
- Censured
- Pvt.'s boss
- Actor Ed —
- Thin
- Got up
- African region
- Relieved
- Adorn
- Baltic feeder
- Rapid punch
- Sit — tack!

Thursday's puzzle solved

M	A	M	E	W	I	T	T	A	G	A	I	N
A	D	I	T	O	D	E	A	B	E	R	N	E
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A	G	E	O	C	A	T	O	A	S	T	E	R
W	E	R	E	W	O	L	F	C	R	O		
S	T	A	I	R	G	E	L	S				
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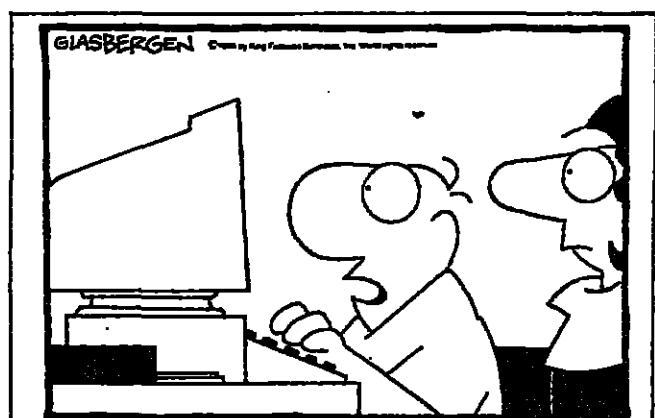
Yves Saint Laurent launch OPIUM



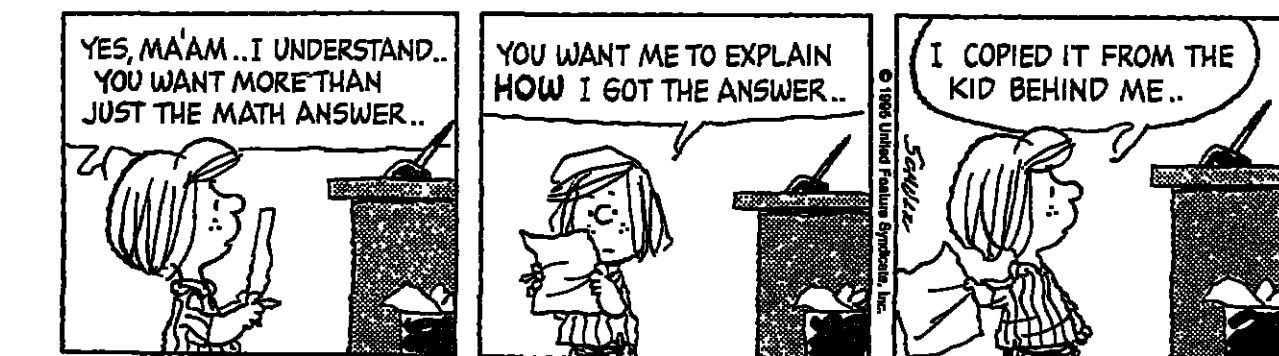
Administrative Director of the Medical Equipment Office Taher Al Hudhud Thursday held a press conference to launch the new perfume OPIUM for men, from Yves Saint Laurent, in the Jordanian market.

Mr. Al Hudhud said it is a wealth of oriental mysteries and charms. It is rare, precious, free, unsettling, magical, captivating, like a verse from one of Baudelaire's poems. In 1977 YVES SAINT LAURENT unveiled this world of enchantment to women who immediately fell under its spell, jealously revelling in its delights. It is an exquisite oriental blend of pure sensuality, with tangy, exotic, fruity notes reminiscent of the sweet-smelling, gentle aroma of sun-drenched fruits and spices.

OPIUM, said Mr. Al Hudhud, is a dream that knows no limits or ways. "Today, after eighteen years of intensifying magic and pleasures, OPIUM reveals its other face: at last the time has come for OPIUM POUR HOMME. A perfect blend of oriental freshness and spicy, woody sensuality," he said.



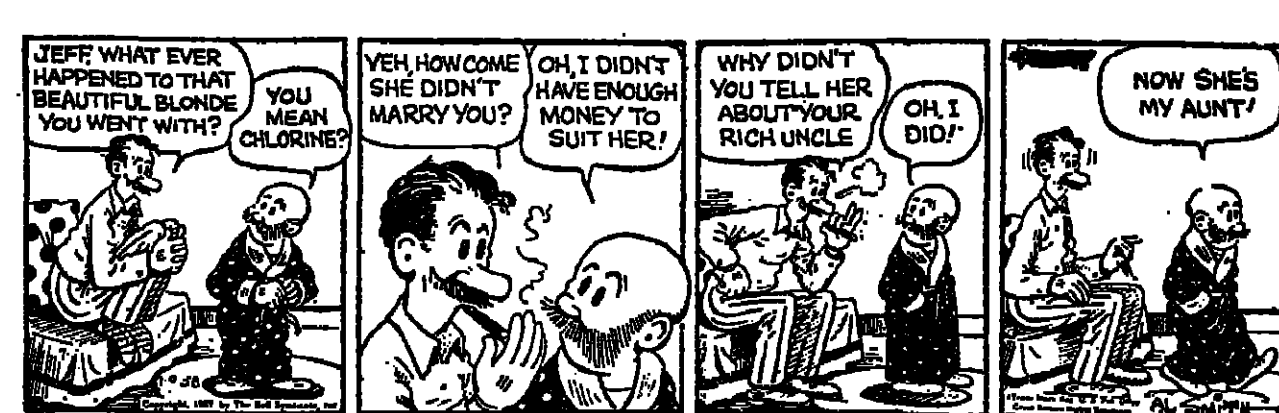
Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



Israel announces \$1.6b Intel deal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli treasury announced Friday it had reached an agreement with Intel Corp. allowing the U.S. company to build a \$1.6 billion facility in Israel.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told a news conference the semiconductor plant would mark the largest foreign investment in Israel to date and Intel production would begin in 1998.

"This investment, which in my assessment is the largest ever made in Israel, has significance above and beyond this specific project," Mr.

Shohat told reporters. Annual turnover from the facility to make semiconductors for computers is expected to total \$1 billion with all the production designated for export.

Dov Frohman, the general manager of Intel Israel and vice president of Intel Corp., said the plant would directly employ 1,500 people.

"The investment is good for Israel and good for Intel in that order," he said. Intel plans to build the facility in the developing area of Kiryat Gat, in the Negev Desert.

Trend at AFM is highly positive

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share prices sprang back at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week in dipped turnover but the trend in the market is highly positive ahead of the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, AFM dealers said Friday.

"They said a 1.5 per cent drop in prices in the previous week was largely because of shedding by some investors who wanted quick liquidity and the decline was not indicative of a depressive mood

in the market.

The weekly report of the AFM said the official market index based on 630 major companies closed on Wednesday — the last day of trading for the week — at 160.5 points, up 2.5 points or 1.6 per cent, from the week's opening of 158 points.

Volume for the week was JD 4.5 million, down 15 per cent from the previous week's JD 5.3 million, but, as one AFM dealer put it, the market activity was "very healthy."

Industrials gained 2.3 per cent during the week on a turnover of JD 2.2 million, accounting for 48.9 per cent

of the volume, followed by the banking sector with 2.2 per cent with a turnover of JD 1.5 million, or 20.8 per cent. The services sector accounted for JD 700,000, or 15.6 per cent, and gained 1.2 per cent.

Insurance stocks were down 0.1 per cent on a JD 100,000 volume.

The AFM report said 2.8 million shares changed hands under 3,401 contracts concluded during the week, which saw average daily trading dropping to JD 900,000 compared with the previous week's 1.1 million.

Shares of 91 companies were traded during the week,

with 43 of them closing with gains, 32 losing the 13 remaining stable.

Brokers said investors were involved in last-minute efforts to take positions ahead of the MENA summit, which, many expect, to produce progress on realisation of multi-million dollar projects with local and foreign capital.

"It will not be a surprise at all to see high turnover and prices shooting up this week, the final days of trading before the summit," commented a broker, who, under AFM regulations, cannot be identified by name.

BUSINESS DRIFT BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Floating prices is possible

★ THE MINISTRY of Supply announced for the first time the possibility of floating prices of products on the basic condition that laws protecting the consumer are available. He said "If laws are available, it is then possible to think of floating prices but without such laws, there is no choice for the ministry except to continue fixing prices in accordance with the supply law." The minister emphasised that despite higher costs for rice, sugar and, especially wheat, by double the old prices, the government will continue to subsidise these foodstuffs and will not reduce the subsidy in the 1996 budget (Al Dustour).

Sales tax raises prices

★ PRICES OF more than 40 products went up at the Civil Consumer Corporation as a result of raising the sales tax from seven to ten per cent. The corporation's director-general said the price increase will not affect available products at the corporation's markets as the sales tax will only be imposed on new purchases and imports.

Trade team to visit West Bank

★ A JORDANIAN trade delegation will visit the West Bank to enable Jordanian businessmen meet Palestinian counterparts to discuss possible joint cooperation with them. The delegation, initiated by the Jordan Trade Association, will be led by Kamal Oqash (Al Aswaq).

Glass factory under revival

★ THE MANAGING committee of the Jordan Glass Factory, which was closed in 1993, is making contacts with local, Arab and foreign investors to relaunch the company under a new registration and by acquiring the existing facilities which was not operating at more than 10 per cent of its capacity in the past. The new founders will be able to operate the factory, modernise its facilities and diversify its projects. The head of the managing committee said samples of Jordanian sand suitable for glass manufacturing was sent to many Arab and foreign companies and was found to be competitive in quality and prices. The factory was closed as a result of technical deficiencies which surfaced during production in addition to rising costs and administrative negligence which later translated into large losses and low-quality output. A committee which investigated the situation has submitted its findings to the minister of finance who referred the report to the prosecutor general. No decision on the issue has been reached yet (Al Dustour).

Garbage dumping site under study

★ EIGHTEEN COMPANIES out of 34 which submitted offers to study building a waste dump site in Russeifa, have been qualified for the second stage which involves matching the technical and financial offers presented by these companies. The tenders committee at the Municipality of Greater Amman is looking at the financial offers of these companies in order to select four of them to conduct the studies which cost between JD 150,000 to JD 400,000. The municipality seeks to building a waste dump site which could cost about JD 20 million and will be working on obtaining the necessary financing for this project which will replace the present dumping site (Al Ra'i).

Wrong policy

★ THE POLICY of absorbing large numbers of employees each year in the civil service is a wrong policy," former Social Development Minister Mohammad Sgour says. He indicates that wages of civil servants are basically low and small increases in salaries every now and then will not present a practical solution to the problem of rising cost of living. He points out that civil servants account for 40 per cent of the Kingdom's total workforce and that is an imbalance that bloats the public sector and reduces its productivity. Dr. Sgour sees the remedy by not burdening the state more than its need and to have the private sector participate in the development of the country (Al Aswaq).

id be coming to the Amman conference. Ambassador Saad was confident that the regional situation that were promised in the Casablanca Declaration would be announced in Amman although he did say there are still some unresolved details to be worked out at interim arrangements about the location of the institutions. He spoke out-of-factly, however, at the Middle East Development Bank being headquartered in Amman. It is very important," Ambassador Saad stressed caustically, "that all parties (Amman) have to take effectively in formula the economic terms of the international cooperation to make sure we are establishing operation on a balanced basis."

HOROSCOPE

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International Council of Astrologers
Astrological Foundation

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Birthstone of October 21 — Tourmaline

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SAMRIYAT										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607173										
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (16/10/1995 - 18/10/1995)										
WEEKLY REPORT										
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	2,324	2,470	2,470	
ARAB BANK PIG	488,130	241.600	241.000	245.500	3.900	THE PUBLIC BUILDING	2,509	2,500	2,500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	34,000	4.900	4.900	4.600	-0.300	SPINNING & WEAVING	252	1.750	1,680	
BANK OF JORDAN	12,663	3.700	3.700	3.600	-0.100	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	484	2.290	2,290	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	27,929	1.230	1.230	1.230	0.000	DAR AL DINA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	42,863	7,230	7,140	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	24,230	2.340	2.340	2.400	0.060	ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	37,271	5,170	5,500	
THE HOUSING BANK	4,758	5.300	5.300	5.300	0.000	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	294,971	0,600	0,690	
JORDAN KHALAT BANK	171,995	2.770	2.770	2.800	0.030	ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	33,810	1,620	1,430	
JORDAN GULF BANK	120,821	1.170	1.170	1.150	-0.020	NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	8,493	2,220	2,250	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	34,188	3.400	3.400	3.700	0.300	NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	19,040	1,070	1,080	
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	59,271	3.750	3.750	3.620	-0.130	INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	82,932	1,720	1,850	
HOUSING BANK	12,250	3.480	3.480	3.200	-0.280	JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	22,965	1,000	1,110	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	43,076	3.710	3.710	3.720	0.010	UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	329	3,270	3,200	
BEST ISLAND SAVINGSINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	14,961	3.899	3.899	3.890	-0.009	NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	9,081	4,100	4,000	
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	348,454	0.130	0.130	0.120	-0.010	JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICALS	9,140	1,340	1,310	
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,607	5.240	5.240	5.250	0.010	ARAB CRYSTAL FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	9,523	2,070	2,040	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	60,383	1.530	1.530	1.540	0.010	NATIONAL INVESTMENT	19,378	1,620	1,650	
						UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	17,764	3,170	3,190	
						JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	110,589	1,950	1,900	
						JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	71,760	1,570	1,600	
						INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	33,759	1,380	1,420	
						UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	101,447	2,090	2,030	
BANKS SECTOR						1450311	INDEX NUMBER: 194.65	INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		
						CHANGE	+0.21%	1776013	INDEX NUMBER: 125.45	
								CHANGE	+0.23%	
UNITED INSURANCE	4,500	2.500	2.500	2.500	0.000	GRAND TOTAL				
AMMAN ARAB INSURANCE	2,600	1.850	1.850	1.700	-0.150	2806640	INDEX NUMBER: 160.43			
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	766	2.600	2.600	2.600	0.000					
NEW LAND INSURANCE	480	2.020	2.020	1.920	-0.100	PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (16/10/1995 - 18/10/1995)				
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	500	2.400	2.400	2.500	0.100	WEEKLY REPORT				
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	40,390	2.500	2.500	2.400	-0.100	COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
INSURANCE SECTOR						57024	INDEX NUMBER: 130.72			
						CHANGE	+0.05%			
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	157,915	1.630	1.630	1.670	0.040	CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	9,018	0.750	0.750	0.750
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	2,115	7.050	7.050	7.050	0.000	JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	20,176	0.760	0.760	0.770
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,905	5.950	5.950	5.900	-0.050	MIDDLE EAST FOR DEV. & TRADE CO.	400	0.410	0.410	0.400
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	14,825	2.000	2.000	2.070	0.070	UNITED CO. FOR ORGANISING LAND TRAM.	4,952	2.230	2.230	2,260
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	9,589	1.090	1.090	1.070	-0.020	ARAB FIN. INV. CO.	63,581	1,050	1,050	1,000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	6,093	3.150	3.150	3.170	0.020	UNION INVESTMENT CORP. 50%	112,050	0,930	0,930	0,930
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	6,094	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.000	ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	5,731	0,890	0,890	0,890
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / MSA'S	5,373	9.700	9.700	9.600	-0.100	ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	10,044	0,700	0,700	0,710
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMPANY HOTELS	10,288	2.200	2.200	2.350	0.150	JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	5,462	0,560	0,560	0,540
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	100,323	3.240	3.240	3.310	0.070	NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	13,571	1,600	1,600	1,600
JORDANIAN EXPANDED INVESTMENT HOLDING	31,075	1.170	1.170	1.150	-0.020	NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO	10,472	1,040	1,040	1,040
SHARA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	39,471	1.300	1.300	1.340	0.040	RAYAH DYES & MOULDS	8,029	0,870	0,870	0,830
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	39,736	1.110	1.110	1.170	0.060	EL-SAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	83,488	2,120	2,120	2,150
SERVICES SECTOR						512514	INDEX NUMBER: 120.22			
						CHANGE	-0.05%			
ATTACHED COMM. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	8,230	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	UNIVERSAL METALS	805	1,230	1,230	1,200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	672,015	3.530	3.530	3.750	0.220	ARAB STEEL	22,129	0,880	0,880	0,880
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	166,742	3.000	3.000	3.010	0.010	JORDAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	96,340	1,010	1,010	1,010
THE ARAB POTASH	12,038	5.060	5.060	4.910	-0.150	UNION TOBACCO	7,306	0,720	0,720	0,700
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	61,963	9.450	9.450	9.500	0.050	RAFI PHARMACEUTICALS	47,456	1,670	1,670	1,420
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	5,395	3.280	3.280	3.280	0.000	INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING	7,754	0,760	0,760	0,800
THE JORDAN WOOLLEN MILLS	17,066	7.500	7.500	7.500	0.000	INDUSTRIAL CERAMIC	71,004	1,370	1,370	1,320
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	42,991	4.700	4.700	4.700	0.000	1.VEHICLE MANUFACTURING	9,627	0,720	0,720	0,680
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	40,273	5.900	5.900	6.000	0.100	FRANK SANITARY PAPER CONVERTING	12,614	0,890	0,890	0,890
JORDAN DAIRY	632	2.500	2.500	2.500	0.000	NATIONAL POULTRY 50%	10,985	0,890	0,890	0,870
GRAND TOTAL						671711				

Financial Markets		
Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		
Date: 19/10/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7180	0.7160
Sterling Pound	1.1170	1.1250
Deutsche Mark	0.5014	0.5043
Swiss Franc	0.6171	0.6201
French Franc	0.1431	0.1431
Japanese Yen	0.7064	0.7099
Dutch Guilder	0.4480	0.4502
Swedish Krona	0.0440	0.0440
Italian Lira	0.0440	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.0440	0.0440
Other Currencies		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Saudi Rial	1.8780	1.8860
Lebanese Lira	0.043780	0.044130
Small Rial	0.1695	0.1910
Israeli Sheqel	2.5030	2.5610
Qatari Rial	0.1944	0.1954
Argentine Pound	0.0000	0.0180
Qatari Rial	1.8430	1.8500
QAE Dirham	0.1953	0.1943
Qatari Dirham	0.2845	0.2845
Cypriot Pound	1.5215	1.5275
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One U.S. dollar	1.3424/34	Canadian dollar
	1.4072/82	Deutschemarks
	1.5766/76	Dutch guilders
	1.1474/84	Swiss francs
	28.9600	Belgian francs
	4.9498/48	French francs
	1600.712/2	Italian lire
	100.56/66	Japanese yen
	6.7630/30	Swedish crowns
	6.2030/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.4668/78	Danish crowns
	1.4215/25	Singapore dollars
	0.7522/27	Australian dollars
	7.7326/36	Hong Kong dollars
One sterling	\$1.5730/40	
One ounce of gold	\$381.70/382.20	

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Coulthard takes provisional pole position

AIDA, Japan (AP) — David Coulthard of Britain was more than pleased Friday to grab the provisional pole position in the first official qualifier Friday for Sunday's Pacific Grand Prix, followed by his teammate Damon Hill.

Coulthard, the winner of the Portuguese Grand Prix in September, circled the 3.703-kilometre T-1 circuit as he roared his Williams-Renault in 1 minute, 14.182 seconds at an average speed of 179.704 kilometres per hour.

Britain's Hill, desperate to win Sunday's race to head off — or at least delay — archrival Michael Schumacher from clinching the season's title was second at 1:14.289. Hill, 35, averaged the circuit at 179.445 kph.

Schumacher, who is just one fourth-place finish away from his second consecutive Formula One championship this year, was only 0.235 seconds behind Hill at 1:14.524 in his Benetton-Renault.

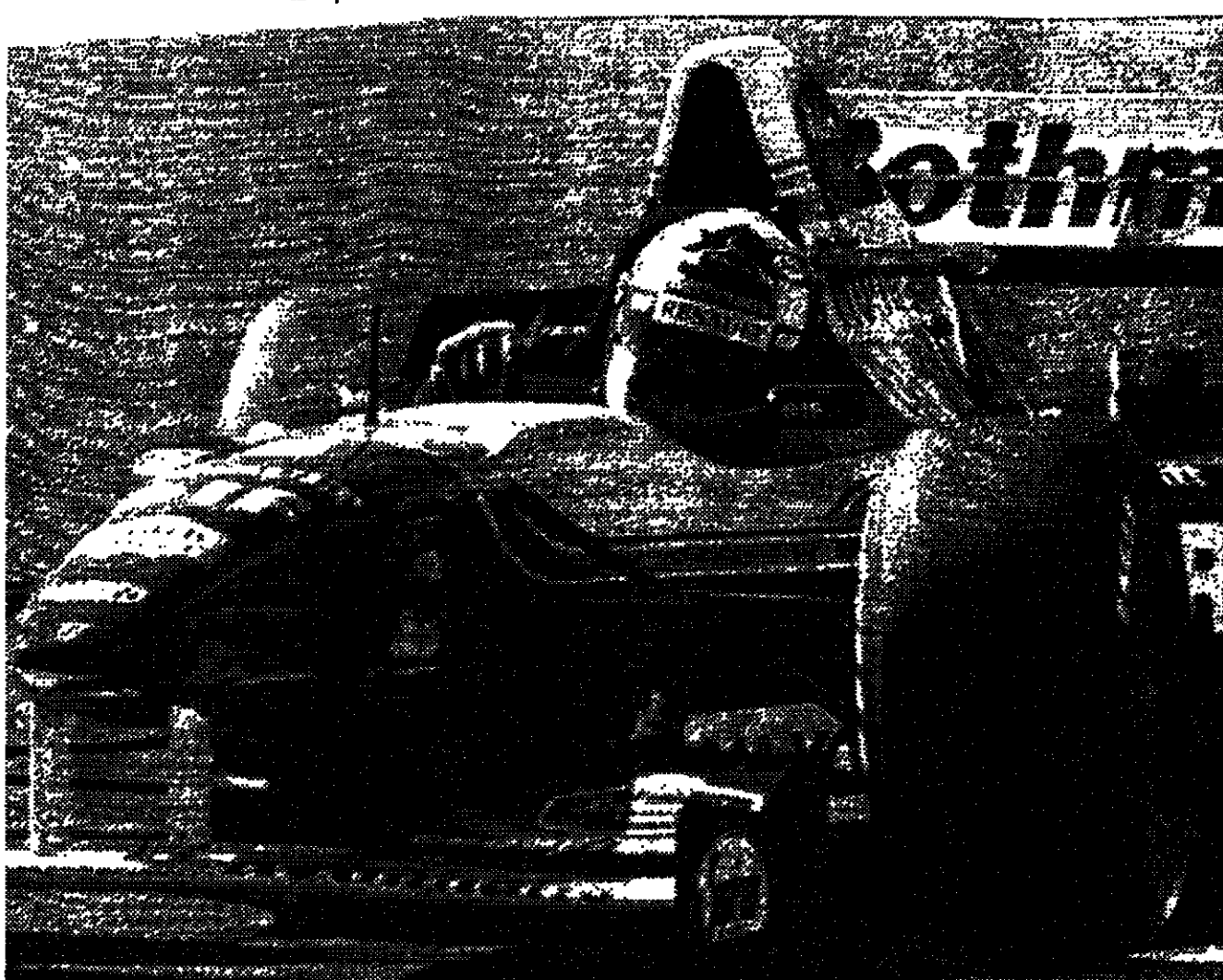
"I wasn't really thinking about the pole position, Coulthard told reporters after the qualifier Friday. "I would have been happy with third or better."

Coulthard said, however, the dusty racetrack slowed him down.

"This is a fun circuit to drive from the qualifying point of view, but it's very difficult because it's incredibly dusty out there on the track," he said.

With seven victories and 82 points this season, the 26-year-old German has what almost everyone considers an insurmountable 27-point lead over Hill, who has 55. Coulthard, who has collected 43 points, ranks just behind his teammate.

"I was pretty much on the limit and did not feel I could improve my time very much, if at all, towards the end of the session," Schumacher said. "We will have to go away and study the data and sort the car out for tomorrow."



David Coulthard of Great Britain steers his Williams on his way to setting the fastest time in the first qualifying session for the Pacific Grand Prix in Aida, Japan. Coulthard set the fastest time of one minute 14.182 seconds (Reuters photo)

For Hill, who has only three victories for Williams-Renault this year, the only chance is to win all three remaining races: Sunday's Pacific Grand Prix, next Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka and the Nov. 12 Australian Grand Prix.

He also has to hope Schumacher earns no more than two points in those three races, the equivalent of one fifth-place or two six-place finishes.

Hill, who hasn't given up hope, aggressively repeated attempts to better his lap time over Schumacher,

who marked the faster time earlier in the session Friday.

The result, Hill said, was good.

"We must maintain that for tomorrow," Hill said. But Hill said the car has to be adjusted to the slippery track, which he said was "like the beach."

Japan's unprecedented situation of hosting two Formula One races in two consecutive weeks came about after the Pacific Grand Prix had to be moved from its original April date because the Jan. 17 Kobe earthquake dam-

aged local transportation systems.

After Friday's first qualifying session, there will be another qualifier Saturday to determine the pole position for Sunday's race. A driver's faster lap from the two qualifying runs will determine Sunday's starting grid.

The T-1 circuit on which the 63-lap race is being run has been the site of motorcycle and automobile races since 1991 and received sanction by the International Automobile Federation last year.

The only shorter track on the Grand Prix circuit is Monaco's 3.328-kilometre temporary road course.

Jan Magnussen of Denmark, a test driver for McLaren-Mercedes, finished 11th at 1:16.339 as he drove in place of Finnish driver Mika Hakkinen who misses Sunday's race after having an appendectomy.

Parmander win race Eriksson,

BEIJING (R) — Swede Kenneth Eriksson won the Hong Kong-Beijing motor rally on Friday and with it the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship.

In a Mitsubishi Lancer, Eriksson and co-driver Stefan Parmander, also of Sweden, clinched the victory in a final morning stage at the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) imperial tombs outside the Chinese capital, then drove into Beijing's huge central Tiananmen Square for the awards presentation.

"It feels fantastic," said Eriksson. "I have wanted this victory for three years. We worked hard as a team and did a professional job. We learnt a lot from last year."

According to provisional final results, he finished in 4:39.28, ahead of second-placed Finn Ari Vatanen and Italian Fabrizio Pons, also in a Mitsubishi, in 4:40.04 and third-placed Britons Richard Burns and Robert Reid in a Subaru 555 Impreza in 4:42.42.

With the victory, Eriksson clinched the championship title regardless of the result of the final event of the six-round series, Thailand in December.

Of the 44 cars which set out on Oct. 14 from Hong Kong, 27 finished the race. The distance between Hong Kong and Beijing is 3,700 km. Officials said thousands of

Chinese watched the race en route and that there were no accidents, except for the deaths of a few chickens.

Moments after his victory, Eriksson said he was considering a switch to another team, adding he could make an announcement next week.

Eriksson said he was considering a move to Subaru or another team, because he wanted a shot at the World Championship.

"It looks like maybe Mitsubishi will only concentrate on the Asia-Pacific Cham-

pionship next year. I want to do that plus the World Championship. I think I have a fair chance of the World Championship," the driver said.

"It's sort of like gambling. It's hard to leave in a way, because you know what you have, but in other ways if you leave, you get a new kick, a new spirit," he said.

Eriksson has been with Mitsubishi for the last six years, but his current contract with the Japanese auto giant expires at the end of this year.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
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NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 9 5
♥ A K
♦ A Q 6
♣ 8 7 3

WEST
♠ 10 6 3
♥ J 6 5 3
♦ A 8 3 2
♣ J 5

EAST
♠ 8 7 2
♥ Q 9 8 7
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ Q 2

SOUTH
♠ J 4
♥ 10 4 2
♦ K 4
♣ A K 10 8 6 4

The bidding:

1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass
3NT Pass

1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass
3NT Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

What was contract bridge like in its formative years? Recently we came across this deal, described by one Frank Walker under the title "The Surprise Attack," published in 1934. We quote verbatim:

"A surprise attack of inspired conception was made by the West defender in a recent duplicate game. His reasoning was flawless and while the criticism might be advanced that such a hand comes

up but once in the proverbial blue moon, when it does arise it spells the difference between victory and defeat."

"West decided that no normal opening lead would make a dent in the preponderance of honor-tricks and distributional values held by his opponents. If South's club value would probably be a laydown. But, and the scheme began to formulate, if East held a club honor, the unimportant-looking knave in his own hand might attain some significance after all. Whereupon he led the five of clubs. East went up with the queen, and South won with the ace."

"Enthusiastic rounds of spades, two of hearts and three of diamonds, and South found himself in dummy after the 11th trick, with two clubs in dummy and the king and ten in his own hand."

"The opening lead had plainly placed East with the queen, knave and the deuce of clubs (when East followed with the deuce to trick 12) and declarer finished the ten with all confidence. West won with the knave and cashed a diamond for a set of two."

"It is interesting to speculate what would have happened had East thrown away that vital deuce of clubs while in the throes of discarding."

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TODAY AT

Plucky Celtic limit damage while Parma crash to Halmstad

PARIS (AFP) — Plucky Celtic limited the damage when they restricted French opponents Paris St. Germain to a single goal in the away leg of their European Cup winners Cup second-round clash here Thursday.

But last season's UEFA Cup winners Parma crashed to a shock 3-0 defeat in their away clash to unfancied Halmstad of Sweden. In Thursday's other matches, English side Everton produced their best performance of the season but failed to turn territorial domination into goals and had to be satisfied with a 0-0 draw against Dutch opponents Feyenoord.

And last season's competition winners Zaragoza snatched a bad-tempered 2-1 home win over Belgium's FC Bruges — both sides having a player sent off on a night when the referee showed ten yellow cards.

Only some spectacular and desperate saves by Celtic goalkeeper Gordon Marshall prevented Paris St. Germain from running up a big score at the Parc des Princes. The Scottish defence came under non-stop pressure in the second-half but they were only beaten once — Youri Djorkaeff firing home the home winner from close range fourteen minutes from the final whistle.

Paris started brightly with both Laurent Fournier and Patrice Loko looking dangerous in early raids, but they

missed a golden opportunity to go clear after half an hour when Brazilian playmaker Rai, unmarked in the area and only six yards out, scooped Jose Cobos' pass over the bar.

Five minutes later Djorkaeff got the better of Tom Boyd and slipped the ball inside to Fournier, but the Frenchman mis-hit his first effort and then curled his second wide.

Ironically the best chance of the half came at the other end — Dutchman Pierre van Hooydonk heading wide with only goalkeeper Bernard Lama to beat.

Simon Donnelly, who was not expected to play, came on as substitute with 20 minutes to go, but Celtic's fortunes dipped.

Djorkaeff, denied minutes earlier by a 25-yard shot which beat Marshall but hit the post, got his revenge.

Stephane Mahe sent a long ball down the left wing. Guerin got the better of Rudi Vata and crossed in from the left. Marshall had no chance as Djorkaeff slotted home his third goal in European competition.

PSG substitute Pascal Nouma should have made it 2-0 in 81st minute but ballooned the ball over the bar from only four yards out.

After the match Van Hooydonk admitted "obviously we are disappointed at conceding a late goal. 'We didn't create enough chances — only my

header in the first half. But I thought our defence played particularly well and we still have a good chance in the second-leg."

Iceland's striker Niklas Gudmundsson upset Parma with two goals in the first half an hour in Gothenburg. And Robert Andersson made the task of the 1993 Cup Winners Cup even more difficult in the return in Italy in a fortnight's time, by scoring a third for the Swedes late in the second-half.

Everton looked sharp and produced plenty of enterprise and determination in front of their fans at Goodison Park but they failed to score the all-important goals against Feyenoord and they must now travel to Rotterdam hoping to repeat their 1985 glory night there when they beat Austria Vienna to win the competition. Manager Joe Ryle, deprived of six first choice players, lined up Earl Barrett, Craig Short and Gary Ablett in a triple centre-back formation with David Unsworth and Matthew Jackson employed as raiding wing backs.

This, with Vinny Samways' return to midfield, made Everton a threatening force — yet at the end of the evening Everton still owed much to veteran goalkeeper Neville Southall who pulled off four brilliant saves from Michael Obiku, Giovanni van Bronckhorst, Rob Witschge and Rob Maas to deny Feyenoord a smash-and-grab

win. Most of Everton's best attacks came down as the left flank where Anders Limpar and the charging Unsworth were always willing to run at the Feyenoord defence.

And from Limpar's best cross in the 48th minute, Samways closed in unmarked on the far post but was not tall enough to connect with the ball.

Everton dealt splendidly with the threat of Ronald Koeman's free kicks, conceding only one in shooting range which was planted high into the stand by the former Dutch international.

With two minutes left ride-out came desperately close to snatching victory for an Everton side undefeated in 11 European ties since being ousted from the UEFA Cup by Feyenoord in 1979. The striker hurled himself forward to meet substitute Stuart Barlow's cross — but his header went just over the bar.

Two of the three goals in Real Zaragoza's 2-1 win over Bruges came from the spot — hardly surprising in a match constantly robbed of rhythm by niggling fouls.

Aragon slotted home a first penalty after 28 minutes while Staelens also scored the Bruges goal with a spot kick mid-way through the second-half.

The other Zaragoza goal, also in the first-half, came from Dani after 33 minutes. Bruges had Renier sent off



Everton's Barry Horne (left) pulls down Feyenoord's Henrik Larsson during their European Cup Winners Cup match at Goodison Park (Reuters photo)

for a second yellow card after 61 minutes and Zaragoza's Nayim followed him for an early shower nine minutes later when he too earned a second booking.

The other players to be

show a yellow card were Solana (12), Aragon (53), Caceres (63), Poyet (72) and Belsue (73) for Zaragoza while Van Der Elst (27) was booked for Bruges.

In the night's other match-

es Germany's Borussia Muenchengladbach ran up an impressive 4-1 home win over Aek Athens while Deportivo la Coruna came away from Turkey 1-0 winners over Trabzonspor.

Two goals in the first 25 minutes were enough to give Sporting Lisbon a 2-0 home win over Rapid Vienna while Dynamo Moscow defeated visiting Haradec Kralove of the Czech Republic 1-0.

Scottish champions look to Gazza

GLASGOW (AFP) — Rangers hope to recall English star Paul Gascoigne on Saturday to help repair team morale after Wednesday's 4-1 thrashing by Juventus in Turin.

Manager Walter Smith is hopeful Gascoigne, out for three games with a thigh strain, will be fit to return against Hearts at Ibrox.

The Scottish champions, badly in need of a lift after their Italian nightmare, bring back former Hearts defender Alan McLaren after being suspended for the European champions' league match.

But there is still no likelihood of Danish star Brian Laudrup, Charlie Miller, Ian Ferguson or Trevor Steven

returning. Laudrup, who hardly missed a game last season when he won the Scottish player of the year double, is out of another three weeks with his ankle problem.

Hearts manager Jim Jeffries will go to Ibrox lifted by last week's 4-2 win over Raith following a poor run of form. But he has fitness doubts over Alan Lawrence (Hamstring) and Dave McPherson (back).

Celtic, spirits high after Thursday's impressive European Cup Winners' Cup performance in Paris which ended in a single goal defeat, go to Kilmarnock who have striker Tom Brown doubtful and Ally Mitchell suspended.

Hibernian entertain Motherwell at Easter Road in a repeat of last season's Scottish Cup meeting. Hibs' manager Alex Miller must rely on the players who drew 2-2 at Celtic last weekend with six long-term injury victims still out — Graham Mitchell, Joe Tortolano, Andy Miller, Willie Miller, David Farrell and Mickey Weir.

Bottom club Falkirk travel to Stark's Park to face Raith knowing they have only chance left to claim a first win in the opening quarter of the Scottish league premier division programme.

But Brockville manager John Lambie has a couple of injury worries for the trip to

Kirkcaldy. Midfielder Derek Ferguson has ankle ligament damage and looks very doubtful while John Clark has been suffering from a calf strain but made a reserve team comeback in midweek.

Aberdeen are at home to Murdo MacLeod's Partick as they seek a pick-me-up after defeats by Rangers and Motherwell before Tuesday's Coca-Cola cup semi-final against the champions at Hampden.

Scotland striker Duncan Shearer could make his first start of the season for the Dons with Scott Booth doubtful due to a groin strain.



Ford Taurus Sedan, a fully remodelled version of Ford Taurus will be on display at the Tokyo Motor Show which will be open from October 28. The new

Taurus, powered V6 3-litre engine, right-hand-drive model developed for the Japanese market is to be launched next spring (Reuters photo)

Fast ground may be against Always Earnest

PARIS (R) — Connections of French trained Always Earnest are worried by the expected fast ground as the seven-year-old attempts to go one better in the Group One Prix Royal-Oak (French St. Leger) over three kilometres on Sunday.

In last year's race Always Earnest was touched off by English raider Moonax, but he gained his revenge when getting the better of his rival by a short head in the Group One Prix du Cadran last month.

He even survived an attempted bite by Moonax, but it was a fine performance as Always Earnest had been plagued by problems during the summer and hadn't raced since May.

Moonax will be an absentee on Sunday, but Richard Hamon's Assessor will be out to emulate his 1992 success which was achieved at long odds. He made a fine British return when beating all bar Further Flight in the Group Three Jockey Club Cup at Newmarket three weeks ago.

Eight go to post and this quality field includes the Coronation Cup hero, Sunshack, who hasn't raced since his fifth to stablemate, Carnegie, in another Group One event, the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud in July.

Sunshack is a full brother to the 1993 winner, Raintrap, and his trainer, Andre Fabre, has gone on record as saying that he is fit and well after a break, adding that the distance shouldn't prove a problem.

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Claes resigns as NATO chief, pleads innocence

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Willy Claes on Friday stepped down as North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) secretary-general with a sense of regret widely shared by colleagues, but maintained his innocence in the face of pending corruption charges.

The expected resignation came the day after the Belgian parliament lifted his immunity from prosecution as a former government minister.

"The interests of this great alliance, its credibility and its efficiency have always come first with me," he told a news conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"I have therefore concluded that the interests of the alliance are best served by my taking this course of action," Mr. Claes said, adding that he did so "with much regret."

But he protested his "total innocence" of the charges levelled at him and said that the conditions in which he had to defend himself against them were "unworthy of a modern state."

Earlier he had told ambassadors from the 16 NATO

members of his decision and then had a final lunch with them.

"They received the news with profound regret and expressed their personal sympathy that he had found it necessary to take this decision," a NATO statement said.

"They also expressed their profound gratitude for his leadership and for the major contribution which he made to the work of the alliance during his year in office, which has been a momentous one for NATO."

The resignation of Mr. Claes, an economic minister in the Belgian government in the 1980s, was regarded as inevitable after 97 of the parliament's 150 members voted to lift his immunity. He faces possible charges in a scandal centering on bribes paid by Italy's Agusta company to win a contract to sell helicopters to the Belgian military.

The voting Thursday night by secret ballot came after Mr. Claes went before parliament one last time and in 11th-hour bid to plead his innocence and also try to save his job as political head of the

world's most powerful military alliance.

The accusations had dogged the 56-year-old Claes at a crucial time for NATO as it faces further involvement in former Yugoslavia and Russian opposition to plans to expand into Eastern Europe.

With NATO urgently preparing the biggest operation of its history — policing a hoped-for peace agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina — the allies will move quickly on his successor. The ambassadors are to start consultations next week.

Among the front-runners are former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen. In the interim the job will be done by Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino of Italy.

European Commissioner Hans van Den Brgek, a former Dutch foreign minister, said he was not a candidate to replace Mr. Claes.

He said he wanted to stay on as European commissioner responsible for external affairs and the EU's eastward enlargement.

NAM adopts united stand for U.N. reforms and debt relief

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AFP) — The majority of the world's countries in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) embraced a developing-world plan of action Friday sweeping U.N. reform and relief from onerous foreign debt.

Capping their 11th summit, NAM leaders gave the nod to a thick declaration also explicitly condemning the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, and urging nuclear disarmament and a new peace pact on the Korean peninsula.

"With the non-aligned at its heart, the United Nations can at last serve the peoples of the world as they must be served," U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told reform-minded NAM leaders Wednesday.

"With the U.N.'s 50th anniversary events set for next week in New York, reforming the most powerful U.N. decision-making body

in their favour topped the NAM wish list.

NAM members make up almost two thirds of all the world's countries, with a majority in the General Assembly.

But must resent the fact they only hold some of the 10 rotating council seats, with the veto power of permanent members — Britain, France, the United States, Russia and China — often overriding their will.

Colombian President Ernesto Samper, who took the reins of the NAM Wednesday in this Caribbean resort city, said: "What the developing countries expect of this reform is that the U.N. represent today's world."

"It is our intention to democratise the mechanisms and procedures of the United Nations."

The NAM issued a joint call for a stronger NAM pre-

sence on an enlarged U.N. Security Council, a more powerful General Assembly and restricted U.N. peacekeeping efforts with more money for fighting world poverty.

NAM countries weighed in against veto power on the Security Council committing "themselves to actively promote its curtailment, a view to its elimination," the statement said.

Cuban President Fidel Castro suggested earmarking two additional seats on an expanded Security Council for Latin America, two for Africa, and two more for Asia (see page 5).

"United, we are a force. United, our voice cannot be ignored," said Mr. Castro, clad to a post-cold war business suit for his address instead of his usual military uniform. "No one else must speak for us."



STRANDED: Palestinians expelled from Libya and stranded on board the Countess M car-ferry anchored off the Cyprus port of Larnaca wave to passing boats. A Syrian ship was expected at Larnaca early Saturday pick up over 550 of the 650 aboard the Countess and ferry them to Syria (see page one) (AFP photo)

Passport extension solves some questions, but others remain

AMMAN (J.T.) — A recent controversy over Jordanian passports held by West Bank Palestinians seems to be heading for resolution after the Ministry of Interior issued new regulations granting West Bankers five-year passports.

According to a report in the Friday edition of Al Ra'i, the regulations allow West Bank residents who were living in Jordan before the Kingdom's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank to obtain permanent five-year passports.

It also allows Palestinians living in the West Bank to apply for five-year passports provided they were residing there between 1949-1954.

The regulations also allow Western Bankers holding temporary two-year passports to obtain five-year passports.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said Wednesday that the passport holders should retain the green and yellow cards issued to them by authorities at the bridges. The green cards are issued

to those who live on the West Bank and the yellow ones are issued to those living on the East Bank who have acquired permits from Israel to live on the West Bank through family reunion plans.

Informed sources said these regulations have no bearing on the Kingdom's decision to sever ties with the West Bank which considers as Palestinians all residents of the West Bank before July 31, 1988 and employees of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The sources said these regulations will be followed by other explanations regarding the right of West Bankers to obtain family registration books, driving licences and food rationing cards.

However, a number of questions remain to be answered.

According to Al Dustour Arabic daily, the questions include the West Bankers' rights to obtain family registration books, join government schools, get employment at government departments or start a business in the Kingdom.

In an interview with Al Dustour, Assistant Director of the Civil Registration Department Ibrahim Shaaban said West Bankers who will obtain permanent passports are not entitled to applying for family registration books.

Mr. Shaaban noted that the regulations only deal with the question of passports.

Director of Employment at the Employment Bureau Abd Qassem said his department did not thus far receive any instructions on the employment of West Bankers, adding that the Ministry of Interior was still studying the issue.

"We only employ Jordanian nationals in government departments," he asserted, adding that job applicants were usually requested to present family registration books rather than passports as a proof of citizenship.

Assistant Director General of the Passports Department Mohammad Kharabshah said his department had not also received any written instructions to convert the two-year

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan, Israel agree on signing accords

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel agreed to sign a trade agreement on Tuesday and an accord on transport in early November during talks held here last week between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Another key agreement reached during the talks on Wednesday was on defining the Jordanian-Israeli border in the Red Sea, the first accord between any two countries sharing the Red Sea.

The sea border will run down the middle of the Gulf of Aqaba.

The main focus of the talks between the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres, who was accompanied by the Israeli ministers of trade, transport and tourism, was joint Jordanian-Israeli projects to be presented at next week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit and prospects for financing the projects.

Also reviewed was the implementation of the Oct. 26, Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the status of the various agreements called for by the treaty, and in this context the two sides set the dates and venues for signing the trade and transport agreements as well as an accord security affairs to be signed by the interior ministers of the two countries.

The much-delayed trade accord, which will clear the way for direct imports and exports between the two countries and for investments in each other's territory, will be signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and his Israeli counterpart Michel Harish at Tiberias on October 21.

The agreement calls for preferential treatment and reduces customs duties and taxes for products are listed in annexes to the accord. The preferential treatment and reduced customs and taxes take immediate effect.

The accord also calls for setting up joint committees to work on expanding trade ties. Crown Prince Hassan said after the meeting with Mr. Peres that this issue was an important topic for discussions with the Israeli foreign minister during the talks.

The agreement on security is expected to be signed by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad and his Israeli counterpart Yehud Barak along with the trade accord in Tiberias.

The transport accord, which will allow the entry of Jordanian and Israeli vehicles into each other's territory 30 days after the agreements takes effect, will be signed by Transport Minister Samir Kassar and his Israeli counterpart Yisrael Kessar in Haifa in early November.

Bus services connecting Amman, Irbid and Aqaba with the Israeli cities of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth and Aqaba will begin 45 days after the accord is signed.

The transport agreement includes a key section on civil aviation that will clear the way for direct flights between the two sides as well as granting each other overflight rights. It will also allow for Israeli use of the port of Aqaba and Jordanian use of the Israeli ports of Haifa and Ashdod, according to the Jerusalem Post, an English-language Israeli daily.

Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, started using Israeli airspace in May 1995 under an interim agreement, which is firming up in the transport accord.

According to the Post, RJ flew about 200 flights a month through Israeli airspace after the May accord was reached.

The two sides have agreed to expand the Aqaba airport with a main building and two terminals to serve Jordan and Israel. The airport will be called "Peace Airport."

Jordan and Israel have also agreed that Israel will build a permanent bridge at the Sheikh Hussein crossing in the north while Jordan will set up a similar facility at the King Hussein Bridge that connects Jordan with the West Bank.

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2 second prizes awarded in Chopin Competition

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — For the second time in a row, no first prize was awarded at the end of the prestigious 13th International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition. Philippe Giannini of France and the public's favourite, Alexei Sultanov of Russia, were each awarded second prize and \$20,000 by the 24-member jury. The third prize and \$15,000 went to Gabriela Montero, 25, a Venezuelan-born American. Rem Urasin, 19, from Russia, came in fourth and was awarded \$10,000. Japan's Rika Miyatani, 24, won fifth prize, worth \$6,000, and Magdalena Lisak, 24, of Poland got the sixth prize and \$4,000. Traditional prizes for best Mazurka, Polonaise and concerto were not awarded. None of the six laureates looked happy as Albert Grudzinski, the competition's director, read the verdict. Fans who waited at the Warsaw Philharmonic until well after midnight to hear the results reacted with boos and cries of "scandal." No first prize was awarded in the last competition, in 1990, and observers noted that the repeat could mean either that the quality of top-level contestants had deteriorated in recent years, or that the competition's rules should be adjusted to new musical styles.

'Marlboro Man' dies of lung cancer

LOS ANGELES (R) — David McLean, a rugged actor who for many years portrayed the "Marlboro Man" in television cigarette commercials, has died at the age of 73 from lung cancer, a mortuary spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said McLean, who also appeared in movies and in television westerns, died on Oct. 12 at the University of California Medical Centre in Los Angeles. McLean appeared in small roles in a series of television westerns including Gunsmoke, Bonanza, High Chaparral and The Virginian. His movie credits include The Andromeda Strain in 1971 and Nevada Smith in 1975. He is survived by his wife, Lilo, and son, Mark.

Charles, Camilla appear at same party

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles brought joy to tabloid editors as he appeared at a party also attended by his close friend Camilla Parker Bowles. The event, described by the Daily Mail as "an astonishing high-risk strategy" by the couple, made the front pages of most of the popular papers Thursday. It was the first time Prince Charles, 47, and Camilla, 48, have been seen at the same public event since the prince's admission last year that he had strayed from his marriage vows with Princess Diana. Jonathan Dimbleby, the prince's biographer, had identified Mrs. Parker Bowles as the other woman. Both appeared Wednesday at the Ritz Hotel for the 50th birthday of Lady Sarah Keswick. Mrs. Parker Bowles arrived two hours before the prince, who was detained at a film premiere. The Sun newspaper reported that Mrs. Parker Bowles' ex-husband Andrew, and their son Tom were also at the bash.

U.S., France and Britain accept S. Pacific nuclear-free zone

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States, France, and Britain confirmed Friday they will recognize a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific as soon as the French complete their current tests in the region.

A joint statement by the three governments, released here, said they would sign three protocols of the 1985 Rarotonga Treaty, which established a nuclear free zone, in the first half of 1996.

The statement said the move would "contribute to international peace and

security" throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The decision to sign the protocols appeared aimed at defusing widespread anger in the Asia-Pacific region over France's resumption of underground nuclear tests in the Mururoa atoll of French Polynesia.

Britain maintained silence over the French testing, and British Prime Minister John Major is expected to face criticism on the issue at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Auckland, New Zealand next

month.

All five declared nuclear powers — the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia — have pledged to sign a comprehensive test ban treaty by the end of 1996. Russia and China have already signed the South Pacific protocols.

The 1985 accord is signed by the 16 members of the South Pacific Forum. The signatories have for several years been pressing the three western nuclear powers with interests in the region to sign

the treaty.

The South Pacific Forum recently cut off France's dialogue status as a result of the resumption of testing by President Jacques Chirac following a three-year moratorium.

France, which has already conducted two tests, plans to continue with a half-dozen more through May next year.

The governments of France, Britain and the United States "consider that zones internationally recognised as being free of nuclear

weapons, based on negotiations between the governments of the region, can contribute to international peace and security," the statement said.

The 1995 nuclear non-proliferation Treaty "recognised and encouraged the creations of such zones," it said.

The Foreign Office said in London, Britain's commitment, along with France and the United States, to sign the Rarotonga Treaty reflects London's wish to answer

wide concern over nuclear testing.

The decision "allows us to advance our position by sending the strongest possible signal of support for a nuclear weapons free zone in the South Pacific," it said in a statement.

"The decision also reflects our wish to respond in a practical way to the concerns of those in the region and elsewhere about nuclear testing. It confirms our belief that an end to nuclear testing is in sight," said the statement.

Swedish court rejects French quest for extradition of Algerian suspect

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Swedish Supreme Court refused Friday to approve the extradition to France of Algerian Abdul Karim Deneche suspected of being involved in a bomb attack in Paris.

The attack July 25 in a metro in Paris killed seven and was the first of eight attacks in France blamed on Algerian Islamic fundamentalists.

The court said the international arrest warrant issued by France — on which the extradition request is based — is "marred by an obvious error."

It said sufficient proof existed to corroborate Deneche's claim that he was in Stockholm the afternoon of July 25.

The court's decision cannot be overruled by the Swedish government.

Arrested on Aug. 21, the 39-year-old Algerian is still in detention in Stockholm, under a special law on surveillance of foreigners, awaiting a government decision on his expulsion from Sweden, requested by the Swedish secret police.

In Paris, a spokesman for the French justice ministry said it had "taken note" of the Swedish decision. "The ministry has no other comment to make at the moment," he said.

In its five-page judgement, the Swedish court noted that it was not "particularly unusual" the Deneche "hesi-

tated" when asked to account for his movements on July 25, as the first interrogation took place nearly a month later, on Aug. 21.

Prosecutor Klas Bergenstrand, who favoured extradition, described Deneche's alibi for July 25 as vague, especially his alleged visits to a social security office and a suburban post office to deposit money.

But the court ruled that a receipt for Deneche's postal deposit bore an authentic signature, verified by a criminal laboratory, and that there was no "sufficient reason to suspect that the signature was counterfeit."

Both France and Sweden are signatories to the 1957 European Convention on Extradition.

Turkish party leaders agree on details of coalition deal

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path (DYP) party and the Republican People's Party (CHP) of Deniz Baykal said Friday they had reached agreement on the basic principles for a coalition pact.

The announcement came after a meeting of a sub-committee set up Thursday to form a new coalition.

Turkey's government has been embroiled in crisis since Ms. Ciller's government was toppled by a no-confidence vote in parliament on Sunday. The crisis dates back to September 20, when Ms. Ciller resigned after a coalition with Mr. Baykal's left-leaning CHP collapsed and she was forced to opt for a minority government.

Ms. Ciller and Mr. Baykal are now seeking to renew that same earlier coalition.

A draft agreement will be drawn up and submitted to the sub-committee on Saturday at 0900 GMT, said Cokkuz Kirca, DYP member and foreign minister.

The pact pledges to improve the human rights situation in Turkey, modify article 8 of the anti-terrorist law, which restricts freedom of expression, to bring it into line with the European Convention on Human Rights, Mr. Kirca said.

Another DYP-CHP sub-committee agreed Thursday night on modifications to the electoral code, as well as

lated to Ankara's treatment of an 11-year Kurdish insurgency in the southeast, in which more than 18,000 people have died.

The European Parliament wants the article scrapped or amended in exchange for approving a customs union deal between Ankara and the European Union (EU) by the end of the year.

After months of fruitless demands for wide democratic changes, European diplomats and Turkish commentators say the European Parliament will make do just with changes to article 8.

"The general impression is that if only a comma is changed in article 8, customs union will be approved," wrote columnist Taha Akyol in Milliyet daily. "So without further ado... parliament must change the comma in the next two months."

The new coalition will also be mindful that customs union approval is likely to affect the voters in early general elections.

Public workers, whose month-long strike helped sink a minority government Ms. Ciller tried to put together this month, say the right-left alliance could solve the pay dispute.

"With the CHP, we believe there will be a solution before a confidence vote for the new government next week," Yildirim Koc, a top official at labour confederation Turk-Is, told Reuters.